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Cost of dying rockets as the number of pauper's funerals rise

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

SOARING funeral costs are pushing cash-strapped families to breaking point with fears of an increase in 'pauper's' funerals.

With costs now pushing £3,400 for an average funeral in Kent, experts warn the number of no-frills farewells funded by the public purse are set to rocket.

In addition, the increasing fees charged for an average burial are plunging those left behind into debt as they struggle to meet the costs.

The so-called pauper's funerals – or public health funerals – are paid for by local authorities when families have no money to pay or people have no relatives or friends. They involve a burial or cremation, which might not be in the deceased's local community, and a basic service.

But while the numbers are traditionally low, they are on the rise, putting a strain on public funds.

Medway Council and Swale Borough Council confirmed this week both had seen increases in recent years.

Out of the 11 Kent councils who responded to our request for figures, over the last two years some 67 people had to rely on the state to fund the disposal of their remains.

Medway Council said since January it has provided nine cremations or burials, up on the total of six last year.

Swale said there were four between April 2011 and April 2012, and had already footed the bill for two since April this year.

A Swale council spokesman, who said all its public health funerals involved cremations, said the cost to the council is the burial or crematorium fee, which

Continued on page 2

Picture: KEN MEDWYN

BRICKIES' CALL TO ARMS

JOIN IN: Sittingbourne urge fans through the turnstiles to swell coffers – **SEE INSIDE**

HISTORY

War memorial relatives hunt

A HUNT for relatives of victims listed on a war memorial for the local dead from World War One is under way. Courtesy of an anonymous £15,000 donation, a new memorial at Milton Regis will be unveiled 25 years after the original was destroyed in the Great Storm of 1987. **PAGE 5**

HOUSING

Pensioners fear closure

RESIDENTS at a sheltered housing scheme for the elderly say they fear for their future after landlords confirmed they were involved in a consultation process over its closure. If the plans go ahead it will see neighbours and friends separated after years of living side-by-side. **PAGE 9**

TRANSPORT

Speed traps 'saving lives'

LOVE them or hate them, but according to the latest figures, speed cameras monitoring our roads have seen the numbers of deaths and serious accidents drop dramatically in recent years. However, critics say more focus should be put on improving driving habits and not speed traps. **PAGE 21**

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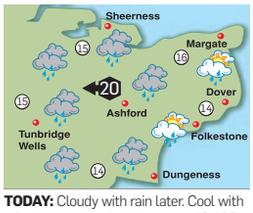

TODAY: Cloudy with rain later. Cool with a fresh easterly wind. Max temp 13-16C (55-61F). **TONIGHT:** Cloudy with rain and thunder. Min temp 10-13C (50-55F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	04.48	5.9	17.26	5.8
Margate	05.42	4.2	18.18	4.3
St Mary's	10.50	4.7	23.31	4.4

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 17C	Min 11C
Tuesday	Max 16C	Min 11C
Wednesday	Max 16C	Min 11C
Thursday	Max 16C	Min 10C
Friday	Max 17C	Min 10C
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Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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Austere times will 'see inevitable rise in pauper's funerals'

Continued from front page

had risen from £409 in 2009 to £485 now.

He added: "Each case is treated on its merit, however, if we know the deceased's wishes in the matter we would go with that option."

In some cases, the council can claim costs back from the family or deceased's estate.

Simon Cox, from financial services company Sun Life Direct, which commissioned a report on the problem, said burial and cremation fees – which make up a third of the total costs of a funeral – were rising fast in the area.

"They are rising above inflation; during austere times it's a way for councils to raise money," he said.

"Funeral director costs haven't risen as fast although they have to take other factors into account; for example, the number of deaths over the last 40 years has declined, but this is expected to rise by almost 20 per cent in the next two decades."

He said although people could get help through the Government's Funeral Payment scheme, which offers a one-off payment of around £1,200 to help pay costs, figures have shown more than half of the applications made last year were rejected.

"We don't have a crystal ball, but the situation in terms of austerity measures means we won't see any money from central government. This situation will worsen and public health funerals are likely to increase," said Mr Cox.

He said debt and despair had an awful impact on bereaved families.

"Someone has just died, you're getting into debt – it's very difficult," he said.

"We're holding a Parliamentary meeting to discuss this issue in November. It needs more attention. More people need to be aware of this issue."

Ian Driver is manager of a Kent branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

He said: "In more deprived areas like Thanet it is becoming a real problem. During these austere times I think we will start to see an increase in people making enquiries about support for funeral costs. It's inevitable.

"I'm sure we will see a rise in pauper's funerals too. There's no sign of things getting better."

CAMPAIGN

Boris's deputy heading to lion's den for airport visit

VISITOR: Deputy Mayor of London Victoria Borwick has spoken out against an estuary airport

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

COUNCIL chiefs in Medway are gearing up for a meeting with Deputy Mayor of London Victoria Borwick who will visit next month to discuss the controversial Thames Estuary airport.

Ironically, the senior Tory, who was appointed in May, spoke publically last year in favour of a rail link between Heathrow and Gatwick – instead of a Thames Estuary airport.

"It will be interesting to see what her view is now," said director of regeneration at Medway Council Robin Cooper.

"She's on record, before getting the (deputy mayor) post, of saying she was in favour of high-speed rail links to link up existing airports. We have a similar view to that."

Mr Cooper said the meeting with Mrs Borwick on Thursday, November 22, will see the authority outline the alternatives to a hub airport on the north Kent coast, explain the destructive impact it would have and take her on a site visit so she can see for herself the devastating effects such a development would have, not only on the environment but the people living there.

Her upcoming visit follows numerous attempts by Medway Council, some county MPs and Kent County Council to secure a meeting with London Mayor, Boris Johnson.

"We want to have a frank exchange of views on what the Mayor of London is proposing and also schemes he's supporting, such as Lord Foster's design," said Mr Cooper.

"It will be interesting to see which scheme the mayor is still backing and for us to get over the views of the people of Kent and Essex.

"We want to get the message across of the impact it will have. This isn't us being nimbys, this is the wrong place to build an airport.

"We're not anti-airports, but we believe there are alternatives to the Thames Estuary idea. We want to talk to Mrs Borwick and invite her to see the proposed sites for the airport, and see what her reaction is."

Last year, Mrs Borwick, a member of the Greater London Authority's transport committee and former Tory party treasurer, put forward a proposal for 'Heathwick' – a high-speed rail system linking the existing Heathrow and Gatwick airports.

Writing in a blog last year, she said: "Unfortunately we have put off a serious discussion about the inadequacies of our present airport provision for too long.

"We should have been confronting these strategic decisions years ago. Even radical solutions such as Boris Johnson's estuary airport – under present planning and legal regimes – could not be delivered in time to stop the slide against our competitors.

"Boris Island, a planned multi runway airport that would sit in the Thames Estuary, would take 25 years to deliver and cost £50 billion to construct. Lord Foster's Isle of Grain has a similar price tag and time frame."

NO Estuary Airport

What are your views on the proposals? Share your opinion by writing to Airport Campaign, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS, or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk and put 'airport' in the subject line. Sign the petition at www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk

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FOOD

Bee-ware, cost of honey is set to rocket as wet weather hits hives

By Dean Kilpatrick
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NOT SO SWEET: Bee-keepers are concerned for their hives

THE PRICE of honey produced in Kent is set to soar after bee-keepers experienced one of the worst crops in recent history.

Honey production is down by up to 60 per cent in some cases due to the wettest summer in 100 years. It means 1lb in weight of the sticky substance could rocket to £6.50 by Christmas – compared to £4.50 today.

The price is set to rise as a result of the shortage, which will see bee-keepers feed their insects with an increased amount of syrup over the winter months to try and keep them alive.

But there are also fears queen bees may not be strong enough to survive the cold months after suffering a poor mating season.

Peter Hutton from Tonbridge, who has been bee-keeping for 53 years, called this year's honey production "dreadful" and said the weather has had an impact on keepers all over Britain.

He said: "It's not just county-wide, it's countrywide. The bees weren't building up until May, and this affected the line of nectar.

"It's a difficult time for bee-keepers, and everyone is affected without the general public realising, but they will realise when it hits their pockets."

Mr Hutton believes his crop is down 40 per cent compared to last year, and said bad weather and the use of pesticides were having a negative effect on honey production.

He added: "The price will only increase to a ceiling where people can afford it, so the well-off will be alright but the rest won't."

The honey shortage comes at a time when apple crops are down 20 per cent compared to last year, and other farmers are struggling with the adverse weather conditions experienced earlier this year.

Fellow bee-keeper Alasdair Bruce, who does not sell his honey, has also expressed concern about the production and called 2012 the "worst I have ever experienced".

Mr Bruce, from Margate, said: "Normally, you get a spring flow which really gets the hive in action with high levels of production, but what has happened this year is the whole cycle has been affected by the downturn."

He added there may be a shortage of honey until the next growing period starts: "Most of the beekeepers, if they have a good year, will put some honey aside to make sure they are covered for the lean spells, but shops don't understand it's a finite resource.

"The feedback I'm getting is that people think bee-keepers are making a huge profit, when, in reality, if shops require the honey, we have to buy supplies to keep our bees."

It is hoped production could return to normal – weather permitting – next year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Armed team at raid

A PETROL station in Cuxton Road, Rochester was cordoned off and firearms officers deployed after a robbery on a van carrying cash at around 11.50am on Wednesday.

It was reported that a weapon had been seen. Witnesses reported two offenders who left the scene at noon. They were described as white men with dark tracksuit bottoms and dark hooded tops. They were both wearing balaclavas. No shots were fired or anyone injured.

A251 commuter chaos

MOTORISTS faced delays and lengthy diversions on Tuesday and Wednesday after a water main burst just outside Faversham, on the busy A251 which links the town with Ashford.

Homes were left without water after a pipe burst in Sheldwich. The fluctuating water pressure then caused another burst near Newhouse Lane on Wednesday. Traffic had to be diverted while repair work was carried out and the road fixed.

Litter Angels on tour

AN INITIATIVE designed to raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities the environment faces through the disposal of our waste products, began to roll out across schools this week.

Pupils at 11 schools across Swale will benefit from a programme from the Teynham-based Litter Angels. The environmental art charity received lottery funding earlier this year.

PETS

Warning as antifreeze kills cats

MORE cats have been poisoned in Medway – just streets away from where 10 cats were deliberately killed earlier this year.

The spate of poisonings, believed to have been from antifreeze, has left the community around the Knight's Road area of Hoo devastated, with cat owners scared to let their pets outside.

In January, we reported about 10 cats killed in St John's Road, with the RSPCA believing it to be deliberate, although stressing that unintentional poisonings did occur through pesticides and other chemicals.

However, one distraught owner said they believed "an evil person" was behind the incidents. While some antifreeze poisonings are accidental due to cats apparently liking the taste, Sally Turner, whose cat recently died, said there have been too many to be a coincidence.

The 50-year-old said: "I took my cat to the vet and he had kidney failure caused by antifreeze.

"I'm too scared to let my other cats out now, but I can't keep them inside. I'm so worried about losing them. The lady who lives four doors down from me lost two cats last Saturday from the same thing.

"There's an evil person out there doing this."

An RSPCA spokeswoman said the charity had seen a number of cat poisonings caused by ingesting antifreeze, due to either deliberate or accidental incidents.

She said: "Members of the public should take care in storing it, while we also urge neighbours and communities to join together and be vigilant in terms of animal cruelty incidents in their area.

"Perpetrators should be aware that because this has been happening frequently, this is indeed in the public conscience and that the majority of decent neighbours and communities will be looking out for each other and each other's pets and on the lookout for suspicious incidents or behaviour.

"We would also ask perpetrators to be aware that deliberate poisoning using antifreeze could mean a £20,000 fine and/or six months in prison under the Animal Welfare Act.

"Owners should be vigilant and contact a vet immediately if they suspect their pet may have been in contact with the chemical or if they see any warning signs. The sooner the cat is treated, the better their chances of survival."

Anyone with information is asked to call 0300 123 8018.

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HERITAGE

Hunt is on for relatives of brave fallen, listed on restored memorial

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

IT has taken 25 years, and an anonymous donation of £15,000, but next month a new war memorial – commemorating the fallen heroes of World War One – will be finally unveiled.

And now the hunt is on for relatives of those remembered to attend the dedication ceremony.

The original memorial outside the Holy Trinity Church in Milton Regis was destroyed by the Great Storm of 1987 which wreaked havoc across the county. Since then, all that remained was a stump of stone from the original and a rose bush, planted to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

To make amends, six years ago efforts began in earnest to construct a new memorial. But as fundraising efforts by the Milton Regis War Memorial committee stepped up the economy took a nose-dive, and earlier this year those behind the idea prepared to shelve its existing plans and downsize.

But after its plight was highlighted in the Sunday Telegraph earlier this year, a generous mystery donor sent the campaign a cheque which covered nearly half of the £35,000 total cost.

This allowed campaigners to finally get the memorial plans under way. And on October 13 a special dedication ceremony will take place for one of the few new memorials built in the UK.

Adam Tolhurst is a member of the committee and the Labour representative for Milton Regis on Swale Borough Council.

He explained: "We still don't know who the person who donated the money was, but without them we were going to have to scale down our plans to a cheaper and smaller design.

"It's not often anywhere in the country has a new memorial, so we are delighted.

"Fundraising had been the issue. Quite understandably, people have been giving any spare money they have to charities which can immediately help people. Our donor saved the day.

"What we really want now is to appeal to anyone who thinks their relatives were on the memorial to join us next month for the service."

However, the original copper plaque, rescued from the rubble of the destroyed memorial will not be returning.

Having been moved to Sittingbourne with plans to return it when the new memorial was complete, fears cold-hearted crooks would swipe it means the names will instead appear engraved on Welsh black slate instead.

"It looks stunning," explained Cllr Tolhurst. "It has been crafted in Portland Stone and is a fitting tribute to those who have fallen."

The memorial was designed and built by Elliott Brotherton, a well-respected stone mason who lives in New Romney, and has a studio in Rye.

■ **Do you believe your loved ones may be on the memorial? If so, email chris.britcher@archant.co.uk and we'll put you in touch with the memorial committee.**

NEW: The war memorial is finally in place

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hundreds run the 10k

MORE than 500 people completed the Faversham 10k run staged last Sunday, as runners pounded the countryside in the event raising money for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Starting and ending at the Abbey School, first across the line was Noel Sutton from Thanet Road Runners who completed the course in a time of 35minutes and 11 seconds. First woman back was Sittingbourne's Liz Weeks in 37.12 and in sixth place overall.

Prison's bio-fuel plan

A PRISON on Sheppey is set to join in a scheme which turns domestic fat, oil and grease into a bio-fuel.

Following support from Southern Water for the council-run Sustainable Sheppey initiative, HMP Stanford Hill will have its waste cooking oil collected and turned into bio-diesel. The fuel will be used within the prison estate with plans to roll it out further. It also offers training for inmates near the end of their sentences.

Unite pay deal delight

UNION chiefs have welcomed Medway Council's decision to put on hold its plans to withdraw from the national pay agreement for local government staff.

The council says no decision will be made for at least six weeks. Regional officer of the union Unite said: "I welcome this decision. I look forward to meaningful and constructive consultations with the council."

TRIBUTE

Cyclist to be buried on day of his wedding anniversary

THE family of cyclist Graham Hughes, killed in a car crash on the A228 last weekend, have revealed his funeral will take place on the same day he should have been celebrating his 29th wedding anniversary.

Tragic Mr Hughes, 56, was killed when his bike collided with a stationary lorry in Snodland on Saturday afternoon. The father-of-two and grandfather was declared dead at the scene.

He had been riding home after working at a nearby road haulage firm.

A statement from his devastated family said: "Graham would have been married to Julie for 29 years on October 1, which is also the date of the funeral, which will be held at Bluebell Hill crematorium.

"Graham was a father to two children, Gary and Zoe, and was a grandad to seven-year-old Harry and three-year-old George. Graham was a great friend to many. He worked at Wincanton in Snodland for the last 23 years and died whilst on his way home from work.

"He was a keen and experienced cyclist, who had ridden many charity bike rides."

SAD LOSS: Graham Hughes died while riding his bike home from work

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HORTICULTURE

Community spirit brings home In Bloom trophies

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Garden of England has been showered with praise at the annual South and South East in Bloom.

Despite the efforts of the weather to wash away the enthusiasm of even the keenest gardeners, several areas took good prizes, including Tunbridge Wells with gold in the large town category.

The awards were announced in front of a packed crowd at a ceremony at Ferneham Hall in Fareham, Hampshire.

BBC TV gardener Chris Collins presented the main winners with engraved glass trophies, and gave certificates to all other entrants.

Organisers said the contest encourages residents and businesses to work together to improve their environment, making it greener and cleaner and a pleasure to live in, work in and visit.

Gravesend town centre won a silver gilt for the second time, and Gravesham council leader Cllr John Burden said: "Once again Gravesham has connected with its community, especially the business community, to produce an award-winning performance. Gratifying as the award is, never forget that the flowers brighten our town for everyone, resident and visitor.

"Possibly it has never been a more important year to show the place at its best."

Tunbridge Wells won several awards and Cllr Ronen Basu said: "It is wonderful for the town to have been given these awards and confirms what people tell me when they say they think the town looks very beautiful. This is a prestigious competition and we should be proud of our achievements."

Ian Cameron-Fleming is senior outdoor leisure officer at Canterbury council, and he said: "The In Bloom campaigns are about recognising great gardening skills to make towns and cities attractive places to work live and visit, showing that people care about the environment, and more importantly getting people involved in looking after their environment.

"It is a delight for the district to have achieved these awards, in recognition of the local In Bloom campaigns, and in particular acknowledging individuals who put in a lot of work and effort to make it happen."

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

GOLDEN: Dunorlan Park in Tunbridge Wells was one of the county's many In Bloom award winners

THE COUNTY'S WINNERS

Small city Canterbury – silver
Large town Tunbridge Wells – gold and winner; Faversham – silver gilt; Sittingbourne – silver
Town centre Gravesend – silver gilt
Small town Cranbrook – silver gilt and winner; Queenborough and Rushenden – commended
Coastal with population of 25,001–100,000 Herne Bay – silver gilt and winner
Large village Eynsford – silver gilt; Five Oak Green – silver gilt; Southfleet – bronze
Village Doddington – silver and winner
It's Your Neighbourhood Establishing commendations for Anthony Roper Primary School in Eynsford; Full Frontal, Castle Avenue and Clarence Road, Rochester; Full Frontal All Saints in Chatham; Oxenden Square, Herne Bay; River ward Full Frontal Gardens, Rochester; High Street, Rochester; Staplehurst Natural Planting Group; and Tyson Road Residents Association, Folkestone.
Developing commendations for Churchyard Garden of Remembrance, Five Oak Green; Full Frontal Clive Road, Rochester; Inverary Court, Community Garden and Allotment, Ramsgate; Kent Enterprise Trust, Herne Bay; Streamwalk Community Garden, Herne Bay; and Waterloo Road, Cranbrook.
Thriving commendations for Forge Orchard, Cranbrook; Friends of Bromhill, Rochester; Friends of Prospect Field, Whitstable; Friends of Rede Common, Strood; Hambrook Marshes, Canterbury; Mad Hatters Gang, Cranbrook; and Westcliff Conservation and Community Association, Ramsgate.
Outstanding commendations for Capel Diamond Jubilee Community Orchard, Five Oak Green; and Full Frontal, Rochester.
Conservation area Eynsford Millfield Trust, Eynsford – silver gilt
Country park Brockhill Country Park, Hythe – gold; Lullingstone Country Park, Eynsford – gold; Trosley Country Park, Meopham – silver gilt
Large park Dunorlan Park, Tunbridge Wells – gold; War Memorial Park, Herne Bay silver gilt
Small park The Vines, Rochester – silver gilt
Heritage parks and gardens Reculver Country Park, Herne Bay – gold and winner
Large cemetery Herne Bay Cemetery – silver gilt
Beat the drought: Maureen Leah and Linda Page, Cranbrook in Bloom
Chairman's award St John the Baptist, Doddington

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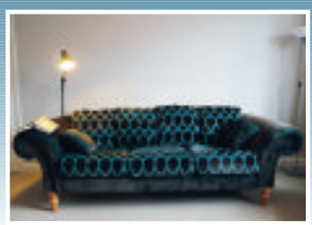

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REGENERATION

Government gives the nod to plans for £650m dockside development

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

AMBITIOUS plans to transform a 26-acre site at Chatham docks are set to go-ahead after the Government approved the scheme.

It was confirmed this week the secretary of state would not call in the plans – lifting a key hurdle.

It means the Chatham Waters £650million project will be able to push ahead and in doing so create some 3,500 much-needed jobs.

If all now goes to plan, work on the site will get under way next year. However, the development is unlikely to be complete for another 10 years.

In all, 1.9 million sq ft will be transformed and will include office space, education facilities, an 'EventCity' conference centre, and a hotel alongside 950 apartments and townhouses and a supermarket. There will also be a civic square lined by large sweeping parkland boulevards and other open spaces.

Chatham Waters will be built by Peel Land and Property, one of the UK's leading construction companies.

Peel already owns the land at Chatham Docks and is the firm behind a host of major UK developments, including Media City at Salford Quays in Manchester – where both the BBC and ITV are major players – as well as Glasgow Harbour and the huge Trafford Centre shopping destination in Manchester.

BUILDING BLOCK: £650 million will be spent on transforming a 26-acre site at Chatham docks which will include new homes, office space and the prospect of new jobs

As such, it is seen as an essential part of Chatham's on-going transformation and a key piece in the jigsaw of bringing more homes and businesses into the towns.

The decision by the secretary of state, who was consulted due to the scale of the project, follows outline planning approval from Medway Council earlier this year, after two years of discussions with the council and a public consultation last year where Peel showcased its master plan and met with locals to gauge public opinion.

Rodney Chambers, leader of Medway Council, said: "This is a major step forward for the regeneration of Medway and a clear indication of how the areas is attracting significant investment.

"Not only will it create thousands of jobs, but it will provide opportunities for further growth and unrivalled facilities for residents and visitors alike to enjoy and benefit from."

James Whittaker, development director at Peel, said: "Our proposals will regenerate and breathe new life into a significant area of the dockland and give the region a real economic boost. We have started on plans for the first phrase and hope to begin building next year."

When consulting members of the public about the plans, Peel found 90 per cent of those questioned were in support of the scheme and more than 95 per cent were assured in would give the area a huge boost.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kilimanjaro NFU trek

THRILL-seeker Rebecca Wells, 25, has joined a team of seven from the National Farmers' Union to take on the challenge of scaling Mount Kilimanjaro.

The fundraiser from Wouldham, near Rochester, will be raising money for Farm Africa, a UK initiative which tackles hunger through agricultural innovation and enterprise.

The trip leaves the UK on Tuesday. They hope to reach the summit on October 5.

Water works on track

SOUTHERN Water says its £14 million mains replacement scheme in Chatham is ahead of schedule and nearing completion.

Engineers have replaced 40km of ageing mains made of cast iron and other materials, with plastic pipes in 90 roads around the town.

The improvements will help reduce the risk of bursts and leaks.

A spokesman said: "We remain on course to complete the project by the end of the year."

Alert for kite surfer

LIFEBOAT crews from Sheerness were involved in a major search and rescue attempt last Friday after a kite surfer was reported missing after a sail and board were found in the water with no sign of the occupant.

Lifeboats, an RNLI hovercraft and RAF search and rescue helicopter were involved in the search off Shoeburyness in the Thames Estuary. The missing person was found safe and well.

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HOUSING

Elderly express fear over proposal to shut sheltered scheme

Picture: GOOGLE

UNFIT: MHS Homes has said Wayne Court is 'not suitable for 21st century living'

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

RESIDENTS, including a woman in her 90s, fear for their future after a sheltered scheme for the elderly was told it faces closure and those living there are to be re-housed.

Some 19 residents living in Wayne Court in Miller Way, Wainscott, are being consulted on the proposals which could see friends and neighbours separated after living side-by-side for years. According to one resident, among their number is a 93-year-old woman who faces having to leave Wainscott for the first time in her life.

Landlords MHS Homes says it is consulting over plans to pull down the 25 homes, mostly studio flats, to replace them with much needed social housing. It says the one-bedroom studio flats are "not suitable for 21st century living" and are "no longer in demand". Wayne Court, which comprises of nine flats and 16 bedsits, was built in 1967.

MHS Homes chiefs say despite carrying out extensive improvements over the years, there are a string of issues which cannot be solved without a complete rebuild.

But worried residents, some of whom have serious medical conditions, have voiced concerns over their future.

Yvonne Mason, 71, has severe breathing problems. She explained: "While we all understand the need for social housing, this is going to put a terrible strain on everyone here.

"I even fear some of the most elderly people will struggle to survive being uprooted from their homes.

"We were told if we want to stay in Wainscott we would have to look at social housing. But when you've been used to living in sheltered accommodation with carers and support on hand, that's not an easy decision to make.

"It's all very upsetting. My daughter lives just five minutes away which means I can visit her on my mobility scooter. If I'm moved a few miles away I might as well be 50 miles away."

MHS Homes says the consultation period on the site runs until October 10 and up until then no decision will be made. But it vows no resident will be left out of pocket and all will be found suitable accommodation in areas they are happy with.

A spokesman explained: "Lifts and stair lifts have been installed and wherever possible the flats have been converted into self-contained accommodation, however the small one-roomed studio flats are unsuitable for 21st century living and are no longer in demand.

"The homes at Wayne Court are primarily small studio apartments, which means the bedroom and lounge areas are combined with a tiny kitchen area and shower facilities.

"The small studio flats are situated on several different levels and although there are chair lifts in place it makes the corridors difficult and laborious for some older people to negotiate."

Sheltered housing manager Sue Rudd explained: "It is no longer acceptable to have a combined bedroom and lounge area. Older people are more independent now and require accommodation to meet the demands of longer living."

Should the closure go through, every household will receive a 'home loss' payment of £4,700, with a disturbance payment of up to £2,500 to cover their "reasonable" out of pocket expenses.

The spokesman added: "The residents will have the choice of where they would like to be relocated and will be offered one-bed flats or bungalows in their chosen area. Viewings of properties will be arranged and they will be transported to these appointments, and any assistance required for benefit changes and form filling will be given by MHS staff."

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HIGHWAYS

We miss out on cash from new foreign lorry tax levy

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

DAMAGED roads, hellish congestion and lay-bys used as toilets – but still Kent won't see a penny of foreign lorry tax to help tackle ongoing problems on our roads.

In what is a slap in the face for Kent County Council, the Government has continually refused to agree to part with any of the £23 million expected to be generated by the incoming foreign haulier charges.

This is despite Kent bearing the brunt of foreign lorries, with 87 per cent of all international road haulage coming into the UK through Dover and the Channel Tunnel.

Newly appointed transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin announced that foreign lorry drivers using UK roads will be charged £10 a day in a bid to "level the playing field" for British hauliers.

Currently, those coming from overseas contribute nothing, while UK drivers must pay tolls on the Continent. Foreign lorry drivers also fill up on cheaper fuel abroad.

County Hall chiefs welcomed the incoming charges, but demanded the Treasury invest some of the money back into Kent to repair roads and fund major transport projects.

KCC has long campaigned for the introduction of such a tax due to the continual damage to roads, lay-bys used as toilets and stopovers for drivers, and congestion caused by Operation Stack – when lorries are parked on the M20 during disruption at the ports.

Hundreds of crashes have also occurred over the years involving foreign lorry drivers.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "A significant amount of money can now be raised. But this additional income must be invested in maintaining and improving our road network. We want assurances the extra revenue generated by lorry charging goes to fixing the damage caused by foreign trucks."

Draft legislation will be published next month, with the fees introduced before the next General Election in 2015. Charges could amount to as much as £1,000 a year per vehicle.

Mr McLoughlin said the proposals will deliver a vital shot in the arm to the UK haulage industry.

"By introducing charges we will create a level playing field, increasing UK competitiveness and boosting growth."

The Treasury and Department for Transport told this newspaper there are no plans to hand any of the generated funds to Kent.

■ **For an opinion from KCC cabinet member for transport Cllr Bryan Sweetland, see page 26.**

HEALTH

Warning to students to be on alert for brain bug meningitis

By Dean Kilpatrick
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YOUNGSTERS flying the nest to embark on university courses are being urged to be on the look out for the potentially fatal brain bug, meningitis.

The disease can be particularly virulent among those living in close proximity with one another and can kill in less than four hours unless treated.

Parents and relatives are now being urged to ensure students are alive to the risks and make themselves aware of the symptoms, which are often overlooked as bearing the same hallmarks of a hangover or too many late nights.

Thousands of students headed off last week as freshers week got under way at universities across the UK – including the numerous campuses across Kent – with many living in student halls or shared houses.

Teenagers and students are the second most at risk group, only behind children under five, and it is estimated 30 per cent of young people carry the organism which can spark meningitis.

Colum McGuire is vice president of welfare of the Kent Union, the students' body for the University of Kent.

He explained: "When you have so many young people meeting in such a short amount of time from all over the world, it's bound to be more prevalent.

"The main issue is the symptoms are the same as a hangover. So students might just dismiss it – that's why it's important to get the message out.

"We put little cards in our welcome packs and we also get our radio station to go through the symptoms."

Signs of meningitis include headaches, vomiting, feeling stiff and a dislike of bright lights.

However, many students wait for a rash to appear before seeking medical attention, which can lower the chances of dealing with the disease successfully.

Chief executive of the Meningitis Trust, Sue Davie, said: "Meningitis can be a difficult disease to spot – particularly at this time of year – as many of its early symptoms can be similar to those of flu.

"We urge everyone to familiarise themselves with the symptoms, trust their instincts and get urgent medical help if concerned. Doing this could save yours or a loved one's life."

Every year, 3,400 cases of meningitis are reported in the UK, killing 10 per cent of those with the disease.

Parents are also being urged to check their child has had the MMR vaccination to eliminate the risk of an outbreak of mumps and measles.

The two viruses also frequently take hold in universities and undergraduates are being asked to check if they have been vaccinated.

Consultant in public health medicine for NHS Kent and Medway, Dr Faiza Khan, said: "Measles and mumps are serious illnesses that can spread rapidly in colleges and universities and can be very unpleasant.

"If they need the MMR vaccine, they should arrange this when they register with a doctor at their university or college."

BE SURE YOU'RE ALERT TO THE SYMPTOMS

MENINGITIS is caused when the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord become inflamed, usually as a result of an infection.

There are two main forms:

Bacterial meningitis – Needs to be treated with antibiotics immediately. The sooner effective treatment is given, the more likely a person is to make a full recovery.

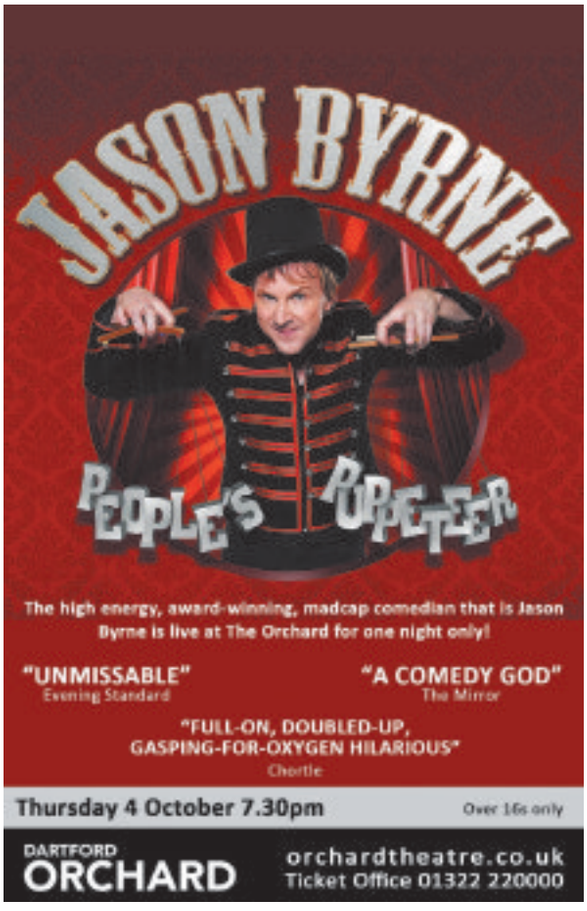
Viral meningitis – Although it can make you feel very unwell, treatment is usually rest and painkillers and most people tend to make a full recovery within two weeks without being admittted to hospital.

■ Symptoms include headaches, a stiff neck, dislike of bright light, fever, drowsiness, vomiting and diarrhoea.

■ Meningitis can kill in less than four hours, which is why it's vital to know the signs.

■ Those aged 14 to 24 are second most at risk, particularly students who are believed to be more susceptible due to living in close proximity to others.

(Information provided by Meningitis UK)



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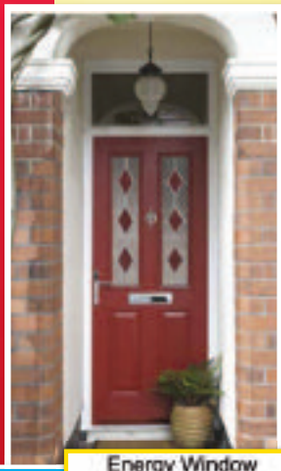

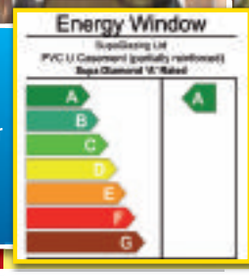

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CEREMONY

Commander officially unveils name of bridge

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE bridge linking Chatham Maritime with St Mary's Island was officially named the HMS Chatham Bridge this weekend at a ceremony attended by a Royal Navy commander.

Royal Navy frigate the HMS Chatham was a regular visitor to Chatham Maritime prior to being decommissioned last year.

Commander Simon Huntingdon OBE, was in command of the vessel during her final visit to Chatham in November 2010, and it was he who unveiled the name at a special ceremony on Saturday.

Other dignitaries included Medway's mayor and local Royal Navy veterans. Sea Cadets and Sea Scouts provided drill displays, along with guard and escort duties.

A spokesman for the event explained: "In 1990, HMS Chatham became the first warship to be commissioned outside a Royal Navy establishment – the dockyard had closed six years earlier – ending Chatham's 400-year link with the Royal Navy.

"However, the ship made regular visits to Chatham throughout her busy history.

"She was the principal naval presence when Hong Kong was handed back to China, fired the first rounds of the second Gulf War, and provided enormous assistance to victims of the Christmas tsunami in the Indian Ocean – for which the ship and her crew received the Firmin Sword of Peace in recognition of their efforts.

"In 2009, the ship was deployed off Somalia where she dealt, very effectively, with pirates, sinking a number of their vessels in the process.

"Thousands explored the ship during her final visit, demonstrating the enormous affection that exists locally towards the Royal Navy."

READY FOR ACTION: Commander Simon Huntingdon OBE

Pictures: CROWN COPYRIGHT

RETIRED: During her last visit to Medway in 2010 HMS Chatham was very popular with residents

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The Ramsgate lifeboats will be in the marina for the day, showing the public round both the boats

Elephant windows is sponsoring a fund raising day for the Ramsgate RNLI on 29th September at Ramsgate harbour.

The day will consist of a hog roast hot food Live entertainment Jetlev flyer.

Community involvements are important to the Ramsgate Firm and are delighted to support such a worthwhile charity especially as the RNLI like the Kent air ambulance are services we all may need.

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Jetlevflyer
Without doubt the highlight of the day will be watching the flying team on the Jetlevs. These £100,000 machines are exclusive in the UK. In fact this will be the first time the "James Bond style" jet packs have been seen in the country, *(one lucky person will win the chance to fly the Jetlev on the day by raffle ticket – all proceeds going to RNLI)* this will also be a warm up for the pilots who will be attempting a world record channel crossing next month.

Hog Roast
KENT BUCKING BRONKO are providing the hog roast and hot food for the day free of charge and will be donating a large amount of money to the RNLI

The day has been put together with help from Elephant Windows, Lanes Printers Broadstairs and the Ramsgate Harbour office

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News

CARE

Safer living event aims to help elderly stay in their homes for longer

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THOSE aged 60 or over, the disabled and those wanting help and advice on living a healthy and independent life are invited to attend a special event in Sheerness next week.

Now in its tenth year, Swale Borough Council's Living in Safety event will take place at the Healthy Living Centre and is organised by the council's Staying Put team.

Running on Friday, September 28, there will be a host of support groups attending, as well as health and nutritional advice available. There will even be a chance to learn how to do chair exercises.

So far, confirmed stall holders and attendees for the day include: The Citizens Advice Bureau, Casa Support, CRUSE Bereavement Care, Diversity House, Swale Libraries, Social Services, Kent Karriers, neighbourhood furniture store, MS society, Parkinson's society, SSAFFA Trading Standards, and Swale Borough Council's environmental response, benefits, housing and Staying Put teams.

STAYING PUT: The focus of the event is to enable people to live an independent life

Staying Put is the home improvement agency for Swale and its Handyman Service offers practical help to the over 60s and disabled for a small charge, whether they are owner-occupiers or private tenants in need of practical assistance with minor jobs or repairs to improve their homes.

Susan Hughes, Staying Put manager at Swale council, said: "Every year this event grows and offers residents the opportunity to find out about how they can live independently while being safe and healthy.

"Living in Safety is a really important event that gets serious messages across in a pleasant, friendly atmosphere. It's not only a morning out for people but a chance to chat through some very important issues with friendly faces."

The event runs from 10am to 1pm and everyone is welcome to attend.

For more details contact Staying Put at Swale Borough Council on 01795 417131.

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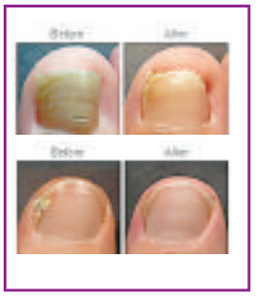

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News

HORTICULTURE

Kent Life names its Garden of the Year green-fingered stars

By Sarah Sturt
sarah.sturt@archant.co.uk

Picture: MANU PALOMEQUE

ATTENTION TO DETAIL: Elizabeth Cairns of Knowle Hill Farm

LIFESTYLE magazine Kent Life hosted a special high tea party at Hadlow College to celebrate the achievements of the eight finalists in its Garden of the Year Awards.

Now in its third year, the finalists were joined by the judging panel – Roger Platts, Amanda Cottrell, Sarah Morgan, Leigh Clapp and the magazine's editor Sarah Sturt – at the college's design studio.

Others joining in the event included representatives from the college and the magazine's charity of the year – Hospice in the Weald.

Prizes of Ruxley Manor Garden Centre vouchers and personalised certificates were presented to the two runners-up in the Primary School Garden of the Year category, Hunton Primary School and Christ Church Junior School in Ramsgate, and also to the four runners-up in the Amateur Garden of the Year category: Barbara and Brian Badham, Victoria Granville and Richard Baxter, Mel and Lizzie Smith, and Paul and Sue Vaight.

Overall winners, the inspiring young gardeners at Hook Lane Primary School in Welling and Elizabeth Cairns of Knowle Hill Farm in Ulcombe – who edged the competition with her consistent attention to detail in plant selection and knowledgeable, enthusiastic personal connection to her creation – also received beautiful wooden benches from Sidcup-based Ruxley Manor Garden Centre.

The October edition of Kent Life is on sale now and includes four pages of photos and interviews with the two winners.

The November edition (on sale from October 24) will feature two pages of pictures from the awards ceremony.

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Election November 15th

Theresa May
Home Secretary
has said

Source: www.guardian.co.uk
Thursday 6 September 2012

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News

COMPETITION

Win tickets to Champions of Rock at the Orchard Theatre

THREE giants of rock, on one stage, on one night – prepare to be "entertained, exhilarated, and rocked 'til you drop" as Champions of Rock hits town.

The live concert show celebrating the music of Freddie Mercury and Queen also stars the world-acclaimed Rod Stewart and Tina Turner revue shows. And it takes place at Dartford's Orchard Theatre on October 12.

It's a chance to witness the sheer power of some of the greatest rock songs of all time on stage again. And you could be there for free courtesy of our great competition.

Michael Taylor, the show's producer, said: "Be prepared to be regally rocked; a crazy big thing called Champions of Rock is coming to town."

Queen B, who re-create the magic of Freddie Mercury and Queen in the show, are supported by the equally explosive Tina Turner and Rod Stewart live concert shows.

Mr Taylor added: "Both specialise in whipping crowds up into a frenzy of audience participation. They both combine superb musicianship with audacious stage antics."

To be in with a chance of winning one of the three pairs of tickets up for grabs, simply answer the following question:

Queen's legendary lead singer is called Freddie?

a) Flintoff b) Mercury c) Fox

Send your answer, along with your name, address and daytime contact number to: Champions of Rock Competition, Archant KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS. Closing date is October 2, 2012.

Winners will be randomly selected from all correct entries. The promoter's decision is final.

Usual terms and conditions (see www.kentnews.co.uk) apply. Please note if your entry arrives after the closing deadline of October 2, 2012, your entry will not valid. And if you don't win, tickets for the show are available from the theatre's box office priced at £22.50.

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Congratulations all round!

There is much to celebrate all round at the Bishop of Rochester Academy in Chatham, Medway's flagship Academy - which is Sponsored by Rochester Diocesan Board of Education, Canterbury Christ Church University and Medway Council.

Students and staff are celebrating their recent GCSE Exam Results, with a massive rise in results to 42% 5+ A - C Grades (including English & Maths) this year, which is more than double last year's results.*

The Bishop of Rochester Academy has a new Principal, Mr Colin Boxall, who together with his new Leadership Team has introduced a multitude of new initiatives to drive up standards and raise the attainment of students - encapsulated by the Academy's new motto: 'Determined to Excel'.

"I am determined to encourage all our students to achieve beyond their expectations." said Mr Boxall.

The Sixth Form is also going from strength to strength, with some impressive Level 3 results for A Levels and BTECS.

The Academy's recent Exam success follows on from a visit from OfSTED last Term, when the Inspection team reported improvements being made at the Academy and commended the new Principal on his vision for its future progress.

2012 GCSE EXAM RESULTS

5+ A* - G GCSE	99%
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Determined to Excel

"The Principal's strategic vision demonstrates strong leadership... those actions he has initiated illustrate perceptive insight of what needs to be done... He is rightly focussed on raising achievement... improving the quality of learning..."

OfSTED, April 2012

"In lessons, I observed a significant number of students with good levels of engagement in their learning..." **OfSTED, April 2012**

"The Academy has raised its expectations of the levels of progress that can be achieved by students between Key Stages 2 and 4. Senior managers have set targets in line with the national average of three levels of progress and are carefully monitoring..."

OfSTED, April 2012

The Bishop of Rochester Academy
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ROAD SAFETY

Speed traps take the credit for a big drop in serious road crashes

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE number of deaths and serious injuries in crash hot spots has reduced dramatically, according to the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership.

New figures have shown a 72 per cent drop – from 363 people in the three years before fixed speed cameras were installed to 103 between 2009 and 2011.

Mobile cameras, which move around the county, have also helped cut deaths and casualties by 67 per cent, from 118 prior to them being introduced to 62 in the last three years.

Spokesman Katherine Barrett said in the 10 years the partnership has been running it has been determined to reduce the number of speed-related crashes.

"Our latest research clearly shows the benefit of safety cameras in casualty reduction is substantial," she said. "In real terms, fixed and mobile safety camera figures combined represent the equivalent of 386 lives saved, or people being saved from potentially life-changing injuries."

Across the county there are 77 fixed safety camera sites, all installed at specific locations due to a history of speed-related crashes in which people have died or been seriously injured.

"In the majority of areas, the message is definitely getting through to drivers, though there are still some where motorists are failing to heed speed warnings, and where fatal or serious injuries have remained the same or slightly increased," said Ms Barrett.

"We regularly review the effectiveness of cameras at these sites and continue to explore other ways of reducing speeds and casualties."

But Ian Taylor, Kent spokesman for the Association of British Drivers, said to attribute the reduction in crashes to speed cameras was "potentially dangerous".

"Overall, there has been a decrease in accidents, deaths and injuries. That is always welcome news," he said.

"But the drop is partially due to the economic downturn, resulting in less traffic. Statistics of this kind need to also take traffic volumes into account. There is also little attempt to correlate the figures with the actual causes of the accidents.

"Speed alone never caused any accident, death or injury – slower speed may mitigate the effects – but how far do you take that? Inappropriate speed for the road and conditions is a genuine cause, but is variable and little to do with a posted speed limit; set these days as much for political reasons as safety.

"Such accidents are a small minority. Many more are caused by inattention, failures of judgment and drink or drugs.

"All those reasons demand better education and training as well as enforcement. Why then do we continue to lavish so much money and effort on the camera partnerships and just one aspect?"

A new campaign has been launched this week by the safety camera partnership.

Information boards will be going up at roadside camera sites showing how many lives have been saved and serious injuries prevented so drivers can see how effective a particular camera has been.

SAFETY: Figures have dipped but those opposed to speed cameras say more needs to be done

THE FIGURES

Area	Fixed camera	Mobile:
Ashford	Down 83% (6-3)	Down 100% (5-0)
Canterbury	Down 61% (13-5)	Down 95% (19-1)
Dartford	Down 70% (57-17)	n/a
Dover	Down 100% (6-0)	Down 60% (5-2)
Gravesham	Down 70% (36-11)	Down 96% (24-1)
Maidstone	Down 73% (48-13)	Down 33% (15-10)
Medway	Down 71% (79-23)	Down 73% (41-11)
Sevenoaks	Down 100% (5-0)	Down 67% (24-8)
Shepway	Down 92% (13-1)	Down 71% (14-4)
Swale	Down 74% (35-9)	Down 90% (10-1)
Thanet	Down 53% (28-13)	Down 100% (10-0)
Tonbridge & Malling	Down 86% (7-1)	n/a

SEARCH FOR WITNESSES

AN APPEAL has been launched after speed cameras were targeted by vandals placing stickers over their lenses.

Kent Police, community safety units, Neighbourhood Watch and the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership are asking communities to watch for anyone carrying out such behavior and to alert authorities. Cameras across the county were targeted last month and it is now happening again.

Katherine Barrett from the camera partnership said: "We don't have the resources to keep undoing this damage.

"We're keen that cameras continue working in order to continue reducing the speeds for communities.

"Our eyes and ears can't be on the ground to look out for this, so please let the police know by calling 101."

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News

ENVIRONMENT

Noisy neighbour's stereo is seized after Robbie racket

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A NOISY neighbour who blared out tracks by Celine Dion, Chris de Burgh and Robbie Williams has seen his stereo confiscated after a string of complaints.

Medway Council stepped in after reports of loud music causing a nuisance at the home of Mark Sigston in Quinnel Street, Rainham, last October.

Officers from the environmental protection team visited the 31-year-old's address several times to ask him to keep the noise down.

But all their approaches were rebuffed so they served Sigston with a noise abatement notice in February.

Council officers continued monitoring the situation to see if he was still playing his music loudly.

On one occasion, they were outside his home and heard him belting out tunes such as Angels by Robbie Williams, Firework by Katy Perry and Who Knew by Pink.

Weeks later, during an evening visit, they heard tracks like Celine Dion's All By Myself, Lady in Red by Chris de Burgh and George Benson's The Greatest Love of All being played loudly.

In May, the council obtained a warrant from the courts allowing them to temporarily seize Sigston's stereo equipment.

Peace and quiet then momentarily returned to Quinnel Street.

On July 11, council officers returned Sigston's stereo to him, as they had to under the terms of the warrant.

He was again warned that if he breached the abatement notice again his equipment would be seized and he would face prosecution, as well as the possible loss of the sound equipment.

Just three days later, officers were called to a noisy party at Sigston's address. This time the team seized his stereo, TV and computer as they all could be used to play music loudly.

He was invited to be interviewed under caution, but didn't respond and a case was prepared for court.

Sigston appeared at Medway Magistrates Court this month and pleaded guilty to three charges of breaching a noise abatement order.

He was given a conditional discharge for 12 months and a forfeiture order for his CD players, mixers, amplifier and speakers.

Magistrates told Sigston he would not be getting them back and ordered him to pay £1,100 in legal and investigation costs.

Cllr Mike O'Brien, portfolio holder for community safety and customer contact, said: "There is nothing worse than annoyingly relentless loud music being played by a neighbour."

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

STAND AND DELIVER: Horse-drawn carriages were popular targets for the county's highwaymen

The highwayman who became a folk hero

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE phrase "stand and deliver" is synonymous with an extravagantly clad masked horseman pointing his pistol at an unfortunate traveller and relieving him of their money and belongings.

And a few hundred years ago such men did indeed prowl the isolated country lanes of Kent.

Coaches and travellers on horseback were their prey, and while the use of militia and soldiers eventually bought an end to the exploits of the 'knights of the road' they have passed into legend and popular culture, from Dick Turpin to Adam Ant.

And among the most profitable targets were those rich enough to travel by stagecoach

A mail coach between London and Dover started daily operation in 1785, leaving the capital at 8pm and arriving in Dover at 6.30am in time for a daylight crossing to France.

Other towns also began to get the service, while coaching inns sprang up which offered night-time accommodation for passengers and driver, and a change of horses during the day.

DASHING: John Nevison's deeds were legendary

Turnpike roads, paid for and maintained by local landowners who charged travellers to use them, made progress easier, but also attracted the highwaymen who were often tipped off by locals when rich pickings were on the road.

Records still exist of robbers who haunted the King's Highway during the 17th and 18th centuries. The confession of a Highway Robber under Sentence of Death in 1751, can be found in the Centre for Kentish Studies.

It reads: "I, William Lee,... aged 22 years,... husbandman,... do depose... that I left my father on New Years Day last on account of a young woman, who I had been familiarly acquainted with, but unwilling to marry... (F)alling into bad company, (I) was seduced to take to the highway and committed about half a dozen robberies... (I) was apprehended... within one week... I dye in the Protestant Faith and... beg all young men would take warning by me, beware of bad company and Sabbath breaking".

John Nevison was one of Britain's most flamboyant highwaymen and much of his legend arose from one north Kent exploit which took place before the advent of stagecoaches.

One summer morning in 1676, a traveller at Gads Hill was robbed by Nevison.

The highwayman then made his escape on a bay mare, crossed the River Thames, by ferry and galloped towards Chelmsford.

After resting his horse for half an hour, he rode on to Cambridge and Huntingdon, resting regularly for short periods during the journey.

Eventually, he found his way to the Great North Road where he turned north for York.

He arrived in York at sunset after a journey of more than 200 miles, washed and changed his clothes, then strolled to a bowling green where he knew the lord mayor was playing.

Legend has it he then laid a bet on the outcome of the match – and made sure the lord mayor remembered the time the bet was laid – 8pm that evening.

Later, Nevison was arrested for the robbery, but produced the lord mayor as his alibi witness and the court refused to believe a man would have committed a crime at that time in Kent and ridden to York by 8pm the same day.

He was found not guilty and emerged as a folk hero, even impressing the king of England Charles II – but he was eventually executed for killing a man in a separate incident.

After his death the following song became popular:

Did you ever hear told of that hero,
Bold Nevison it was his name,
And he rode about like a brave hero,
And by that he gained a great fame,
Now when I rode on the highway,
I always had money in store.
And whatever I took from the rich
Why I freely gave it to the poor.
I have never robbed no man of tuppence
And I've never done murder nor killed.
Though guilty I've been all my lifetime
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OPINION

Give us a fair share of lorry cash

While the news of plans to charge foreign HGVs for using our roads is to be welcomed – it is vital the money generated is fairly allocated

WHAT very good news it is to hear that the new secretary of state for transport has announced the Government is to go ahead and implement road-user charging for HGVs.

Kent County Council has long campaigned for such a charge and we are delighted the Government has, at long last, listened to our views.

Patrick McLoughlin, the transport minister, must be congratulated. Within a couple of weeks of taking up office he has managed to score a great win for British business.

Firstly, he is ensuring foreign lorry drivers pay to use UK roads, mirroring the situation for British trucks travelling on European roads.

Secondly, he has managed to comply with the ever-present and tiresome requirements of the EU regulators and thirdly, he has done all this without disadvantaging UK hauliers.

While foreign operators will have to pay up to £1,000 per year, the UK haulier charge will be off-set through reduced Vehicle Excise Duty.

All in all, a good day's work, and he should quite rightly be feeling pleased with himself.

However, I call on him now to acknowledge the vital role Kent plays as the gateway between the UK and Europe.

Kent has long suffered the impact of 90 per cent of all foreign HGVs entering the UK through our beautiful county. We all know what these impacts are: Congestion on our main routes; damage caused to our roads, lay-bys and country lanes; and who can ignore the massive disruption in the east of the county when Operation Stack is implemented when the French have an industrial dispute or we experience extreme cross-Channel weather?

With this recent announcement, Patrick McLoughlin needs to ensure that when he is overseeing the drafting of the necessary legislation to invoke this charge, there is clear provision for a proportion of the revenue raised to be reinvested in the county that is bearing the burden of 90 per cent of foreign HGV traffic. I hope he will fight the Treasury and insist some of this new tax revenue is returned to Kent.

Top of the list must be the provision of a number of suitable overnight lorry parks, together with a strict enforcement campaign to stop foreign lorry drivers parking in lay-bys on the A2 and A20, in local villages and other unsuitable and unsafe roads in our county.

I would like to share with KoS readers part of a letter that I received last week from a resident from just outside Canterbury; I have received hundreds of similar letters like this over the last year.

They said: "The use of the lay-by is disruptive to our lives.

I call on the transport minister to recognise the role of Kent as the gateway between the UK and Europe

Worst of all is the overnight lorry parking. Refrigerated lorries keep us awake all night. Non-refrigerated lorries leave engines on and disturb us in the middle of the night or early morning when they warm up their engines and accelerate up the hill.

"We have witnessed drivers urinating in the lay-by and worse. They throw rubbish into the bushes and we have been asked for food and drink as there is nowhere to obtain these. We have also had verbal abuse thrown at us when asking the drivers why they choose to park here and interrupt our sleep. Such drivers can become threatening and approaching them is very frightening."

Kent's residents really deserve better, Kent needs a fair share of the HGV road charging revenue.

■ **Cllr Bryan Sweetland is Kent County Council cabinet member for transport.**

KOS COMMENT

Worrying soaring cost of the final farewell

THERE are, they say, just two certainties in life; death and taxes.

But despite an economic outlook which promises as much warmth as an early British summer, few of us could imagine the cost of dying would be added to our list of financial concerns, along with fuel and food.

Amid the tragedy of a loved one's passing, the final bill for their burial or cremation has long been a bitter pill to swallow. Today it is one which is rapidly extending beyond the financial reach of many.

We cannot afford to live in a society where we cannot afford to die. And it is a depressing sign of the world we live in when an increasing number of people, in this modern 21st century, are placed in a pauper's grave.

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Westgate Gardens in Canterbury
by Rita Keatley, Canterbury

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You're wrong on V1 and V2

IN HIS article of September 16, Chris Murphy has confused the V-1 and V-2 weapons used by the Germans in the closing stages of World War Two.

The V-2, or Vengence weapon 2, was indeed a rocket-propelled bomb, but it was not the precursor to the Cruise missile.

The V-2 was actually, as the article later states, the forerunner to the ballistic missile and the space rocket.

The V-1, variously called by the Allies the buzz bomb or doodlebug, was the precursor of the Cruise missile.

The V-1 was a small pilotless plane powered by a ram jet engine which was halfway between a jet and a rocket engine. These were the missiles which some Allied pilots tried to tip over with their wings. This was to avoid flying through the debris if they managed to detonate the explosive it carried.

As the article states, the V-2 travelled at three times the speed of sound and fell almost vertically.

There was no defence against it once launched, even the sound of its approach was only heard after the impact.

Brian Barnard, Northfleet

Success must breed success

YOUR readers will be aware that Team GB in the London Olympics came third with 29 golds, 17 silver, and 19 bronze medals – a total of 65 medals; and ParalympicsGB were equally successful with a total of 120 medals.

The principle here for our athletes and Andy Murray's recent success at the US Open in tennis, is 'the will to win'.

It is important the legacy of the Games is to have more young people taking part in competitive sport at school.

Schools play a pivotal role in encouraging and identifying potential future Olympians, that's why the Government has set up the 2012 School Games competition.

But more young people taking part in competitive sport can't be driven by top-down Whitehall policies, as we have seen previously; it must be led by parents and communities creating a culture where competitive sports can thrive.

We must all be proud of the achievements of our Olympic medalists like Ashford rower Tom Ransley winning bronze at the men's eight final in rowing and William Fox-Pitt, from Canterbury, who won a silver medal in the Olympics three-day eventing.

I want to see the legacy of the London Olympics in the form of a sustained and continued participation of competitive sport by future generations and continued success for Team GB and all British sports people.

I would be interested to receive your views on Olympic legacy via email to richard-james.ashworth@europarl.europa.eu.

Richard Ashworth, Conservative MEP for the South East, leader of the Conservative delegation in the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

Airport would create jobs

I REFER to the article by MP Mark Reckless on September 9, and am amazed at his negative tone. He seems to be more proud of the projects he has helped to retard rather than those he has promoted.

His wide-ranging solution to the airport problem seems to be based on a sprawling network of road links spread throughout the South East, plus a series of rail links clogged up with air passengers humping their luggage on and of trains.

His arguments seem to be impervious to the environmental disaster to the people and countryside of the South East that would be caused by the increase in passenger volumes at Birmingham, Heathrow and Stanstead, plus the greater risk of aircraft collisions.

The bill for the extra runways, infrastructure, compensation and disruption may even outweigh the cost of an airport at either Cliffe or in the Thames Estuary itself.

Kent is desperate for permanent jobs. Meanwhile our politicos and pressure groups focus on the effects on wildlife, forgetting to mention the effects of wind farms on the hunting and fishing habits of wildlife they care so much about, to the detriment of future generations.

While they baulk at the prospect of large projects, Essex is getting on with building a huge container port on the site of an old oil refinery, thus providing south Essex with a large employment boost.

RG Shakespeare, Wilmington, Dartford

We've fought animal exports

WHEN the live animal export trade re-started at Ramsgate Port in May, 2011, we were in opposition at Thanet District Council (TDC).

We expressed our repulsion of the trade by putting a motion to council to seek all legal avenues in order to stop it.

This motion was agreed unanimously. This was our first victory.

When Labour became the ruling administration of TDC we vowed that we would continue the fight against the live export trade, using the legal framework and showing a zero tolerance of any infringement of the animal welfare regulations.

Our rigorous action and determination meant the lorries were inspected very thoroughly, as they should.

It then became apparent that on several occasions the lorries or the animals were unfit for further travel.

This led to our decision as TDC Cabinet to suspend the trade in live animal exports out of Ramsgate Port on the grounds that it does not have adequate facilities to care for the animals and that there is no control post nearby to take them.

The Government, as the competent authority under the EU Regulation 2005/1, is responsible for setting up such a control post but, so far, they have not complied with this requirement, in spite of a promise they made in July, 2011.

The suspension of this awful trade by the Labour administration of TDC shows we take our responsibility seriously and that we are not afraid of taking the necessary actions, using the legal framework to pursue our aims.

We stood for election on our manifesto which stated that we would defend the rights of animals.

We fought for this to happen when we were in opposition and we are delivering now that we are the ruling administration.

We would like to thank the RSPCA for the professional and persistent way they carried out their difficult duties at Ramsgate Port.

Cllr Michelle Fenner and Cllr Alan Poole, TDC Cabinet Members

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**

Car hire rules leaving elderly at crossroads

Q RECENTLY a reader wrote to you about problems finding travel insurance for older people. I have a similar problem when it comes to car hire.

A THE law in Britain does not lay down any maximum age for hiring a car, but lots of hire firms will not rent a car to anyone over 75, or even over 70. This is because their insurance company will not provide cover. Avis (0844 581 0147) has a good reputation for hiring to older motorists, and Hertz (0870 844 8844) says it has no upper age limit as long as you have a clean licence. A useful tip is to keep in mind that there can be variations within the same company, with some branches accepting older drivers and some not, because they use different insurers – so check with the branch.

Q PLEASE could you tell me how stocks and shares Isas are performing? I have already invested in a cash Isa and now I am thinking of savings a monthly amount in shares.

A THERE are a few thousand different Isa funds that invest in stocks and shares. Some aim to be safe and steady, while some are more speculative. Some invest in particular types of shares – mining, for example – or shares linked to parts of the world, such as Asia or South America. Unless you can spend some time learning more and judging which funds would suit your pocket and your willingness to take risks, consider sticking to a tracker fund. This will match movements in the Footsie-100 share index, and charges are low.

Q I HAVE been trying to contact Prudential Assurance regarding a life policy. Do you have a current address for the company, please, as I cannot seem to get in touch?

A The Prudential used to have a huge headquarters in London, but its various divisions scattered some years ago. You should now write to the Customer Service Centre, Prudential, Stirling FK9 4UE, or call 0800 000 000. If writing, give your policy number so records can be traced.

Q I AM sending you a letter I received from Care Home Claims Ltd, requesting information about my late mother. I am dubious about people promising much and delivering little, and this company is asking for 25pc plus VAT out of any money it recovers.

A CARE Home Claims – which also calls itself Beadieye and Legal Eye – is a claims management company, licensed by the Ministry of Justice. It files compensation claims on behalf of people who believe they may have suffered injury or financial loss. In particular, the company has been running a campaign aimed at families who have paid nursing or care home fees for a relative diagnosed with Alzheimer's or dementia. There is a case for saying that anyone who is ill should have care provided by the NHS, and if the family had to pay, then they should be able to recover some of the cost from local NHS funds. Claims management companies are not cheap. Typically, they charge between 25pc and 30pc of whatever compensation they win. Many firms that have taken fees up front have ceased trading, leaving customers hundreds of pounds worse off. There is no guarantee of success, but Care Home Claims says it asks for no money up front. If you stick to this, it would do no harm to see if you could make a claim.

Q CAN you tell me why Natwest and Barclays have paid interest gross on my fixed interest bonds, instead of deducting tax at source? Both banks say these are the rules, but I think many people will get a shock when the HM Revenue sends a tax demand.

A ANYONE who looked at the superficial advice on the Revenue's own website would certainly be puzzled. It says that bank and building society interest is taxed at source at the basic rate of income tax. However, there are exceptions. To find them, you really need a study a 145-page guide that the Revenue issues to financial institutions. One of the exceptions is that no tax is deducted from interest paid on a "qualifying time deposit". This is a fixed-term bond that runs for up to five years and holds a minimum investment of £50,000. You have told me that both your bonds are for £50,000, so Natwest and Barclays are right to pay your interest in full. Of course, you still have to declare it on your tax return. The only difference is that you will receive a bill from the taxman instead of seeing the tax deducted before your interest arrives.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

BEDSIDE MATTERS: NHS continuing healthcare funding will pay for some people's health care during a specific time

Cut-off for health care funding refunds looms

Are you or your relatives due a refund for long-term care? **ADAM AIKEN** looks at the complicated world of 'continuing healthcare'

A DEADLINE for refunds of the cost of nursing care is rapidly approaching, with experts warning that people who ovgershoot the cut-off date will miss the chance of a payout for good.

Under something called 'continuing health care', thousands of people who were charged for their care could be entitled to a refund from the NHS.

Continuing health care is not the most widely-known scheme, and it is not always clear who should be eligible for it.

Put basically, if the primary need of someone receiving care is health-related rather than age-related, they may be eligible for continuing-care help. But even then, they will be subject to further assessments to see if they tick the right boxes.

When you have long-term care needs, it is usually obvious whether the help you need is the responsibility of the NHS or of social services.

But if you have complex needs, the boundaries between health and social care may not always be clear.

Because services provided by the NHS are free whereas those arranged by social services are means-tested, the outcome of any decision as to who has overall responsibility for your care can have significant financial consequences.

Earlier this year, the Government announced a time limit for people seeking refunds.

The deadline for claims from before April, 2004, has already passed, and the cut-off point for between April, 2004 and March, 2011, is at the end of this month.

Claims should be made to the primary care trust (PCT) covering the area where the person was living during the time of the care.

Don't get your hopes up too high

Julie Jordan, a health care lawyer at Mills & Reeve and former independent chairman of an NHS Continuing Healthcare Independent Review Panel, said only a small minority of people would qualify for refunds.

"Continuing health care funding is available to patients who have a 'primary health need' – that is, their needs are mainly for health care as opposed to personal and social care," she said.

A crucial point to bear in mind is that only those people who should have had their cases assessed at the time will be able to claim successfully.

Ms Jordan said: "A claimant will need to satisfy the relevant PCT that it ought to have carried out an assessment of the patient's needs at the time the care was provided and had failed in its duty to do so.

"Where the PCT was not aware of the patient or his or her needs at that time, there was no duty to carry out an assessment during the episode of care, and there is no present duty to carry out a retrospective assessment."

This technical, but important point, means that many people may have had their hopes raised with little chance of a successful outcome.

How do I find out more?

Information on the areas covered by PCTs is available on the internet, or you can call NHS Direct.

Many PCTs will have forms for claims which can be downloaded from their websites, or you can send a letter. A letter should say which period of care your request relates to and outline the reasons supporting or justifying your request.

Keep a copy and send anything by recorded delivery. Although PCTs have staff dealing with these claims, it is sensible to have proof of delivery given that there is not long left to get these claims in.

Advertisers Announcement

Hall Hire and Facilities-Hire at the Bishop of Rochester Academy

Due to local demand, key facilities at the Bishop of Rochester Academy in Chatham are now available for hire by the local community and the local business community.

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The Academy also has extensive Playing Fields at its Magpie Hall Road Campus and is making two of the fields available. Both are currently marked with pitches for playing football and good quality equipment, such as netted goals, would be provided.

Facilities at both of the Academy Campuses can be made available for hire by the community in the evenings, at weekends and daytime during school holidays - subject to Academy events.

The facilities are being made available for hire at very reasonable rates for local community use. The Academy also has an experienced team of helpful Technicians who can be available for when Audio/Visual equipment is required.

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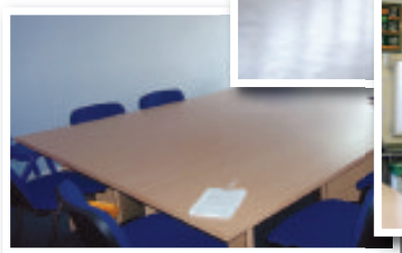

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"We only recently announced that we're making the Academy facilities available to the community and we have already had some bookings and lots of enquiries." said the Academy's Facilities Hire Co-ordinator.

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www.BoRAcademy.org

The Bishop of Rochester Academy's £23 Million new building is currently under construction on the Academy's East Campus site in Magpie Hall Road and Mr Boxall, the Academy Principal, has confirmed that the State-of-the-Art facilities in the 'NEW' building will also be made available for community use when it's completed next year, Spring 2013.

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If you have a business story or any news you think we should be covering in this section, reporter **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you.
You can phone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**.

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Ladies snap up opportunity to show their idea to MPs

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A PAIR of entrepreneurs from Folkestone have the chance to showcase their unique business idea at this year's Conservative Party conference.

All the Fun Of The Children's Fair will be taking a stand at the October event in Birmingham after being chosen from thousands of other new companies.

Entrants from across the UK were invited to enter the Start-Up competition, with 12 finalists given a chance to discuss their ideas in front of senior Conservative politicians, company representatives and members of the national media.

Launched by business partners Kay McLoughlin and Katie Bouille, All The Fun Of The Children's Fair caters for anything related to children, from bouncy-castle hire, fashions and catering to party entertainers. It aims to bring them all together in one place to show what they have to offer, attracting an audience of people with young families who want to examine a range of child-focused products and ideas.

McLoughlin said: "We entered the Start-Up competition after talking to Damian Collins, our MP, because we saw it as a great opportunity for our business idea to gain exposure, credibility and contacts."

The idea came to the two women, who are both mothers, when they realised there was a gap in the market for a business that brings all sorts of child-related activities together.

"We are pretty sure no one else has thought of anything quite the same," said McLoughlin.

"It's a little like a wedding fair in some respects. We will bring together all sorts of people who run businesses relating to children and put them in the same room. Party entertainers can showcase their skills – a fashion show could involve high-street stores and local children, while we would invite toy-manufacturers and photographers, too.

"There are a lot of mums who work, maybe at home, doing something for children, which would be able to get a far wider exposure. Our first idea is for an event in Folkestone, at The Grand Hotel, then maybe elsewhere in Kent. We have even looked at cooperation across the Channel as Folkestone has such strong links with Boulogne."

The pair have already put their idea to the BBC3 TV show Be Your Own Boss, and while they didn't win they say it gave them confidence.

Bouille said: "We have been talking for about a year and now we have launched the company. Currently we are working from home and trying to get everything right. I known there are craft fairs and baby shows, but I think we have hit on something unique."

START-UP: Katie Bouille and Kay McLoughlin will attend the event

The Start-Up competition is sponsored by companies such as Fujitsu and the British Venture Capital Association.

Prime Minister David Cameron, who launched the competition, said: "I want to encourage businesses to create and innovate, to invest and grow, to develop and break boundaries.

"That is why I'm proud the Conservative Party is once again showcasing the best of British innovation and entrepreneurship at our conference through the Start-Up Hub."

Focus on finance at annual seminar

SPECIAL seminars to help and advise company directors working within commerce will once again be set up to help business chiefs across Kent.

Accountancy and financial service firm Reeves, which operates across the South East, is offering free half-day sessions to financial controllers.

REEVES PARTNER: Clive Stevens

The Finance Focus seminars have been running for more than 10 years and offer an ideal opportunity to update directors' knowledge on subjects including tax-saving opportunities, bank funding, corporate financial planning, financial reporting, restructuring and recovery and recent changes in employment legislation.

Clive Stevens, managing partner at Reeves, said: "Our annual Finance Focus seminars outline important changes for your business in a wide range of areas and provides an opportunity to speak to our partners.

"In this economic climate you must keep on your finances, so if you are responsible for the finances of your company please do come along."

The seminars are being held in Canterbury, Maidstone, Gatwick and London. See www.reeves.co/events for further details and to book.

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

DEVELOPING OPPORTUNITIES: Rocksalt restaurant on the waterfront is considered a major success in the regeneration work

Regeneration continues with harbour bid

AN application for the development of Folkestone harbour has been submitted to Shepway council.

Put together by architect Sir Terry Farrell, it forms part of former Saga boss Roger de Haan's proposals to regenerate that area of the town.

Included are up to 1,000 new homes, shops, bars and a sports centre. More specific details will be made available in the future.

The proposal replaces an earlier scheme that was abandoned due to the economic climate. Put together in 2006, this called for 1,400 homes, a fast-ferry link to France and a vastly-improved marina.

This is the latest development in the regeneration of Folkestone, which has seen substantial investment in The Old High Street and Tontine Street.

The Creative Foundation has overseen an arts-led scheme that has attracted new businesses, with many connected to media, communications or culture.

Despite the recession, the scheme has continued over recent years and been regarded as a success, with one of its main steps forward being the establishment of the critically-acclaimed Rocksalt restaurant on the waterfront.

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EMPLOYMENT

SUPPORTER: Hugh Robertson

Fair focuses on all jobhunters

THE Swale Jobs Fair hosted by MPs Gordon Henderson and Hugh Robertson will take place at the Wyvern Hall on Wednesday (September 26) from 10am to 5pm.

The event will be open to anyone looking for a job, career change or apprenticeship opportunities.

Local businesses Swale Heating and Shepherd Neame have already confirmed their support as sponsors for the event and will also be participating as exhibitors, along with more than 40 other companies offering more than 400 jobs.

Although aimed at adult jobseekers, the event will also be keen to engage with school-leavers to help them formulate an achievable career plan and a number of the secondary schools are expected to attend.

There will also be an opportunity for anyone looking to start up their own business to talk with a team of experts within the business and financial sectors at the business start- up clinic; it is hoped that many hopeful entrepreneurs will visit the event.

Henderson said: "There are 3,000 unemployed people in Sittingbourne and Sheppey. Many of those people want to work and I think that as their MP it is my responsibility to try and help them find a job.

"I believe that reducing the level of unemployment is critical because doing so will not only benefit individuals but also our wider community."

Robertson added: "I am delighted to support Swale Jobs Fair, which is a fantastic opportunity to generate local jobs for local people and brings many of our employers together with jobseekers as well as students entering the jobs market.

"I am also keen to support Kent County Council and DWP's Youth Contract initiatives."

Social enterprise cash a benefit to communities

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE Kent Big Society Fund has made its first cash available to boost two socially-aware businesses looking to the future.

Turner Cars from Westgate-on-Sea and Herne Bay's Beach Creative are the first recipients of loans from the fund, which supports enterprises that benefit the community.

Turner Cars provides community transport to a number of vulnerable groups, with a specific focus on wheelchair-carrying vehicles.

Beach Creative provides space to artists and delivers a range of free or low-cost creative workshops for the community and schools to promote and develop the creative sector in Herne Bay.

Established with initial funding from Kent County Council, the fund is managed by the Kent Community Foundation.

Carol Lynch, Foundation chief executive, said: "It is fantastic that this loan fund for social enterprises is available, particularly in an economic environment where banks are potentially reluctant to lend. With loans of between £10,000 and £100,000 being considered to social enterprises on bespoke terms, we can support all size of venture from those starting up to others which are well established."

The cash comes primarily as a loan fund, but there is some scope for an element of grant-funding, from which both of these first two successful applicants have benefited.

Mike Hill, KCC cabinet member for customer and communities, said: "We are delighted the first loans have been made to two very worthy start-up social enterprises.

"The aim of this fund is to make it easier for these types of businesses to apply for and secure funding. I hope other similar organisations are encouraged to apply so we can continue to support and celebrate this excellent work in Kent communities."

The companies said they were looking forward to making the best use of the cash.

Gillian Wilson, of Beach Creative, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to get this. We put a lot of work into developing our application with Andy Garrett, of Kent Community Foundation, and feel confident that with the bonus 20 per cent element of grant funding we should comfortably be able to pay back our loan over the required terms.

"It enables us to deliver courses for the community and to build confidence in practical skills. Our monthly repayments will keep us focused on delivering this professionally."

Scott Dumigan, from Turner Cars, said: "The bank manager was not interested in our proposals to purchase and maintain two wheelchair-adaptive vehicles to help us develop the transport side of our organisation.

"With flexible terms from the Kent Big Society Fund, an element of grant-funding to cover the up-front admin fee, as well as the supportive relationship we have had, we are now able to provide low-cost, good-quality, reliable transport to all aspects of the community.

"This will allow our clients to access areas such as health, education and social opportunities, which they currently find difficult. As an organisation we are here for community benefit, not for profit."

Make the most of young talent

COMPANIES across the county need to take on new talent to prosper and give opportunities to young people, says a UK employers' group.

The Financial Skills Partnership is calling on employers in Kent to invest in the future of their businesses by bringing on the next generation of businessmen and women.

The Office for National Statistics has published its latest set of Labour Market Statistics, which detail the level of unemployment across the country. According to the figures, the number of those out of work in Britain has fallen by 7,000 to 2.59 million.

But at this time of year graduates across the country are entering the job market and, as a result, there will be increased pressure to create vacancies.

The FSP, the employer-led body for the financial-services industry, has created an innovative new route into the finance sector for unemployed graduates through its Graduate Foundation College. The FSP is calling for more firms to join them in this approach and invest in future talent.

This month, the Graduate Foundation College will start putting bright unemployed graduates through a concentrated, structured 10-week training programme that major employers such as Aviva, Just Retirement and Scottish Widows have helped provide, ensuring its quality and industry relevance.

NEW BLOOD: The Financial Skills Partnership is encouraging firms to make the most of young talent

Successful graduates will then enjoy six months of paid industry experience with a small or medium-sized advisory firm.

The graduates will be trained up to the first module of the regulated investment advice competence qualification before being introduced to the advisory firms.

Liz Field, partnership chief executive, said: "This initiative will be hugely beneficial to small and medium-sized businesses. These graduates can be the new blood needed to lower firms' age profile, the talent to meet new regulatory requirements and the creative catalysts to help businesses grow. We're inviting small firms to register and gain the benefit of enthusiastic recruits.

"Vocational training is the obvious and effective way to build skills and we provide the first steps towards professional qualifications.

"Small and medium-sized advisory firms stand to benefit most from this scheme by tapping into the framework put in place by larger employers.

"In a sector where skills are at times scarce and sought-after, the faster this and other initiatives are taken up, the sooner the sector as a whole will be able to expand."

TOURISM

ATTRACTION: Turner Contemporary in Margate

County tourism put on the map

WORK has started on development of Culture Kent, a new website promoting the best events the county has to offer to boost its tourism potential and attract greater investment.

A partnership of Visit Kent, Arts Council England, Kent County Council, Canterbury City Council, Canterbury Christchurch University, The Marlowe Theatre and Maidstone Borough Council is developing the site with the aim of communicating how much is happening, and is about to happen, in Kent.

"The county has so much to offer in terms of culture, and the aim of this new site is to showcase that to as wide an audience as possible," said Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive of Visit Kent. "We are looking to promote the county as a cultural destination and encourage visitors to stay longer, so attracting greater investment in tourism."

With funding from Arts Council England, the site is being used as a pilot programme to establish best practice for culture organisations that want to work with tourism promoters to reach new audiences across the UK.

"Kent is seeing an exciting growth in arts, culture, regeneration and tourism, and we hope this site will benefit potential audiences – for residents, visitors, as well as arts and cultural organisations. We think the Visit Kent website has the potential to be a model for other places, in joining up tourism and cultural opportunities," said Jon Pratty, digital and creative economy, South East, Arts Council England.

The site is due to launch in March 2013.

Training, courses and careers

George is flying high after landing Biggin Hill role

A NEW apprentice scheme for young people has been launched by the RAS group of companies at Biggin Hill Airport. The company specialises in the design and manufacture of aircraft interiors, exterior painting and finishing, and special engineering projects, for the aerospace industry.

Under the scheme, three apprentices will be taken on over the next 12 months, and the first to be enlisted is 20-year-old George Harvey following a thorough selection process.

He joins this month and will be attached to the company's design department under the supervision of head of design Kevin Hann. He will be trained in aerodynamics, thermodynamics, and computer-aided design.

As part of his training, George will attend Bromley College over three years on day release to study mechanical engineering.

After completing the course and passing the examinations, he will qualify for a BTech in mechanical engineering in 2015.

George said: "It is a privilege for me to be appointed to this position. The future is very exciting as aerospace is such a dynamic industry.

"I have always been fascinated by aircraft and the science of aviation. If I work hard, there is a good career path – for me it is a dream come true."

George lives in Medway and is a former pupil of the Medway Community College, now the Bishop of Rochester Academy. He then attended MidKent College to study public services.

The second apprentice will be recruited in the autumn for employment commencing in January, 2013, to specialise in aerospace engineering and manufacturing.

The third candidate will be selected in summer 2013 and will start work in August to specialise in aircraft refurbishment.

Courses are the Tonic needed for creative people

THE University for the Creative Arts says more than 650 creative entrepreneurs, businesses, and individuals in Kent have benefited from its short courses.

Tonic Creative Business Project, based at UCA Rochester, has offered 30 different courses since 2008 and launched its new portfolio for the upcoming academic year this week aboard LV21 at Gillingham Pier.

From October, creative people will be able to apply for short courses and workshops in entrepreneurship, web design, photography, and other creative subjects, which will take place in the evenings or weekends at UCA's Joiners Shop, at Chatham Historic Dockyard.

Michael Poraj-Wilczynski, widening participation manager at UCA, said: "Tonic has been a great success over the past four years and provides a unique opportunity for people to improve their skills and working lives.

"Our short courses offer so much to so many people: not only do they cater for individuals looking to retrain and enter the creative industries for the first time, but there are also courses for established creative enterprises who want to learn more about business and marketing, while practical workshops, such as photography, are perfect for those who simply want to learn more about their creative passion."

For information visit www.tonic-project.co.uk.

College teams up with Gills to develop football coaches of the future

MIDKENT College has teamed up with Gillingham FC in an attempt to develop the football coaches of the future.

Students from the Medway campus's sport department will shadow the League Two club's Football in the Community team as they deliver a number of training schemes across the towns.

The youngsters will also have the opportunity to observe academy, reserve and first-team training sessions at the club throughout the football season.

MidKent College sport lecturer William Lee said the partnership was part of a new course pathway aimed at helping students gain employment in the football industry through refereeing and FA coaching qualifications.

He added: "I'm very excited about this opportunity and believe it will give students a first-hand insight into how the football industry operates.

"We have previously operated courses based around the playing aspect but have decided to deliver this partnership from a new angle."

Students on the scheme attended a special launch event at the home of Gillingham FC – Priestfield Stadium – on Thursday, September 13.

Also in attendance at the launch were Gillinghman midfielder Jack Payne and club mascot Tommy Trewblu.

COACHES OF THE FUTURE: (from left) William Lee, MidKent College students Holly Pearce and Josh West, Gillingham midfielder Jack Payne, Tommy Trewblu, students Mia Sellar and Robbie Summerhayes, and Adam Lawrence

Adam Lawrence – head of Football in the Community at Gillingham FC – said: "The GFC Community Trust is delighted to announce this partnership with MidKent College, which will see young students volunteering for the scheme and gaining important experience in football coaching.

"Not only will this be a benefit for the community team by having extra coaches at our sessions, but I am sure the students will benefit from working in a variety of environments alongside some experienced coaches and teachers.

"It is important for us as a charitable trust to forge links with local organisations and build strong relationships in our community, and this exciting partnership with our neighbouring college is further evidence of this."

Youngsters offered food for thought in successful Skills for Work Week

THE Co-operative Food has been staging workshops in the Dartford area as part of a national scheme to encourage young unemployed people into the food industry.

The business was backing Feeding Britain's Future – Skills for Work Week, a nationwide campaign that finished on Friday, and aimed to offer young unemployed people opportunities to help them prepare for the workplace and introduce them to the various roles within food retail and manufacture.

As part of the campaign the Co-operative hosted sessions at its food stores in Station Road, Longfield, and Long Lane, Bexleyheath, for around 80 young unemployed people.

During the workshops they received training in the skills they need to help them secure jobs, such as creating a CV and interview techniques, as well as learning more about the different types of jobs in food retail and what the work entails.

Group chief executive of the Co-operative Group, Peter Marks, said: "With youth unemployment escalating to more than one million, businesses have a real responsibility to tackle the issue.

"We all have a part to play, and by supporting this initiative and investing in young people, we can help provide them with the confidence and knowledge to make the most of the employment opportunities that are out there, helping to create a talented workforce for the future.

"The Co-operative is committed to helping young people into work, through schemes such as our Apprenticeship Academy, which is on track to provide 2,000 apprenticeships for young people by 2014. The scheme offers proper jobs with nationally recognised qualifications and genuine career prospects throughout our group of businesses, from food and farming through to logistics, right across the UK."

Feeding Britain's Future – Skills for Work Week was designed by food and grocery experts, IGD, to bring together businesses from the entire food and grocery industry to play a vital role in tackling youth unemployment.

For more information on Skills for Work Week go to www.feedingbritainsfuture.com.

Schools & education

Academy opens arts faculty doors to adults for free taster sessions

FOLKESTONE Academy's performing and expressive arts faculty is offering adult members of the community an opportunity to experience the academy's facilities and teaching resources in four one-hour free taster sessions.

These sessions will be held on Monday, September 24, from 3-5pm at the Folkestone Academy.

Andrea Wood, head of expressive and performing arts and organiser of the outreach project, said: "I am excited to share our fantastic performing arts facilities and teaching expertise with members of the community.

"We all feel very passionate about working with the adult members of the community as well as our students because they may have never had the opportunities to study such subjects with amazing facilities when they were at school."

All of the staff from the faculty will be collaborating to deliver four one-hour taster sessions called:

1 – Storytelling with music for parents and toddlers

2 – Dance fever, a hip way to keep fit

3 – Sound and lighting for beginners

4 – Music technology for beginners

If you are interested in participating in one or all sessions call 01303 842400 to sign up. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Search starts for best young cooks in Kent

COOKING: Two-times champion Alice Browning, a pupil at Walderslade Girls School in Chatham

THE prestigious young people's cooking competition – the Kent Young Chef Award – is underway as dozens of schools and hundreds of students prepare to compete for the coveted Junior and Senior titles in the 2012 competition.

Kent Young Chef Award 2012 is open to all secondary students in Kent in year groups 7-11.

The Produced in Kent inspired competition gives Kent's aspiring young chefs the opportunity to devise and write an original main course dish that features regional and seasonal ingredients from the Garden of England.

Two-times champion Alice Browning, of Walderslade Girls School in Chatham hopes to one day compete on MasterChef: The Professionals, work with Kent celebrity chef Richard Phillips, and then run her own restaurant.

She said: "For anyone who loves cooking from scratch I would really encourage you to enter this competition. I have always dreamed of becoming a professional chef one day and this competition is just the best accolade an aspiring young chef could hope to achieve in Kent."

The authors behind the eight best paper entries will head to the professional kitchens and restaurant at K College, Tonbridge, on November 23 to compete for the Junior and Senior titles in the live final in front of a panel of judges headed up by Richard Phillips.

All eight finalists will walk away with a fantastic selection of prizes, as well as a memorable one-day cookery experience and lunch in one of Phillips' restaurants in Kent – The Hengist, Thackeray's or The Windmill Inn.

To enter go to www.producedinkent.co.uk to download your entry form.

HR student Becky in line for award after volunteer work at staff group

A BROMLEY College student studying human resources has been chosen as a finalist for an important industry award.

Becky Shailer, 25, is shortlisted for the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development's 2012 Outstanding Student Award in recognition for her work as HR information analyst at Kent County Council.

Becky is one of five finalists and studied for the Level 5 Intermediate Certificate in Human Resource Management at Bromley College, which she completed in July.

It was her hard work volunteering as the co-chair of Kent County Council's younger persons' staff group, Aspire, that brought her to the attention of the judging panel.

Using the skills and knowledge gained from her course, Becky managed a consultation and re-launch of the staff group to meet the needs of young colleagues, and is currently responsible for more than 20 projects which she manages in addition to her day to day role.

She said: "I am really excited to have been shortlisted for this award; it's fantastic to be recognised as I am incredibly proud of my achievements with Kent County Council's staff group.

"I have always been passionate about HR, but I'm now even more excited about my HR career. I am determined to continue with my studies and complete the next level of the CIPD qualification."

The winners will be revealed at a black-tie event in central London on October 17.

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For an application pack please contact: email: pat.slater@regentgroup.co.uk or Louise on 01322 626240.

Oasis Domestic Abuse Service

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http://www.oasiswomensrefuge.org/vacancies.html
for a description of the post and contact details.

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We are an Equal Opportunities organisation. This role is exempt under the Equality Act 2010 pursuant to Schedule 9, Part 1. As such we can only consider applications from women.

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Public Appointments

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:.

Musical Theatre Lecturer, full time, permanent — *Ref: P0272*

Salary: £26,836 - £31,218 (dependent on experience and qualifications)
37 hours per week - Medway Campus

Mid-Kent College is looking to recruit an enthusiastic and dedicated Musical Theatre Lecturer to lead the HND programme within a successful Performing Arts department. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a high level of vocational experience, direct productions, be able to co-ordinate/work alongside existing teachers to develop, and expand, Musical Theatre both within the college and in the local community. The successful candidate will be responsible for planning and delivering, to a high standard, specialist units to Level 3 students on the BTEC Extended Diploma in Musical Theatre and the Level 4 HNC/D in Performing Arts (Musical Theatre) courses.

Lecturer in Media, full time, permanent — *Ref: P0618*

Salary: £26,336 - 30,118 per annum, (dependent on qualifications and experience)
37 hours per week Medway Campus

A full-time Media Lecturer is required to teach in a busy and thriving Media department. The post requires teaching and leading curriculum for Level 2 and 3 BTEC students with a range of abilities. Ideally, the candidate should have a background within the Media and TV industry, and an excellent knowledge of the Final cut Pro 7 video editing package. Some knowledge of Avid Media Composer 5 and above would also be beneficial with a working knowledge of a TV studio.

Hourly paid Lecturer in Media — *Ref: SESS*

Hourly Rate: £15.80 - £23.30 per hour (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

A flexible media sessional lecturer is required to teach a minimum of 10 hours per week with the Media department. The ideal candidate should hold a teaching qualification and have experience with BTEC and vocational qualifications. Current industry knowledge is desirable, specifically within the television and film industries

Learning Support Practitioner, term time only, permanent — *Ref: LSP01*

Salary: £19,464 per annum, pro rata - 37 hours per week
Medway & Maidstone Campus

We are looking to appoint an excellent, committed and enthusiastic Learning Support Practitioner to deliver quality support for learners in FE. You will need to be an effective team player with a flexible approach, working with learners across the College who have been identified as having specific learning difficulties or needing support with Literacy or Numeracy. You will hold a relevant qualification in learner support or be willing to undertake this as part of your professional development.

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Catering and Hospitality — *Ref: SESS*

Hourly Rate: £22.45 - £27.22 per hour (Dependent on Qualifications and Experience)
Medway Campus

We are looking to appoint a passionate and creative individual to teach on a variety of practical catering qualifications, facilitating student learning and achievement. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. Recent industry experience is essential.

Apprentice, Full-time — *Ref: App*

Medway/Maidstone Campus

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who will benefit from gaining their first NVQ Qualification whilst working in our Examinations Department. The successful candidate will work towards the apprenticeship framework including a relevant NVQ Level within Business Administration. Working within tight deadlines, you should be methodical, flexible, and familiar with MS Office.
Training allowance: £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion

Closing date: 5th October 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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TEACHING ASSISTANT – For Oct 2012

We require an experienced Teaching Assistant who is flexible and able to work with different special needs, with pupils with a statement & support other pupils. We would welcome someone with experience and/or literacy/numeracy intervention. Hours: approx. 31 hrs per week, Mon - Fri, term time only inc training days. Salary: Dependant on qualification Candidates must have Math and English to GCSE Grade C or equivalent.

Closing date: Midday 4th Oct
Interviews: W/C 8th Oct

An application form can be located on the school's website www.doyrms.com , emailing reception@doyrms.com or 01304 245023. CV's will not be accepted.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Candidates must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post including checks with past employers and an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:.

Hourly-paid Lecturer in Maths — *Ref: SESS*

Hourly rate: £23.44 - £31.10 (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone Campus

We are looking for a knowledgeable and experienced candidate to deliver the one-year Maths A Level programme. The successful candidate will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in their teaching methods. The applicants must have a relevant academic qualification and have a teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Electrical Installation, full time, permanent — *Ref: P0070*

Salary: £30,718 - £34,505 (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic individual to deliver Electrical Installation qualifications to learners studying from level 1 to level 3. The ideal candidate will have a current knowledge and practical experience of the Building Services Industry, have sufficient teaching experience and educated to Level 3 or the equivalent in the relevant field. The successful candidate will need to hold an Advanced Electrical Certificate, including Inspection and testing of Installations and an interest in environmental technologies is also expected. Applicants should possess either a D32/34 or A & V Awards and hold a recognised teaching qualification or be willing to work towards teaching and assessing qualifications.

Hourly Paid Learning Support Assistants — *Ref: LSA01*

Hourly Rate: £9.38 per hour - Variable Hours
Medway & Maidstone Campus

The College is looking to recruit Learning Support Assistants to support students throughout the department in the implementation of additional needs. The ideal candidate will have the ability to work in a manner to support the changing needs of students ensuring differentiation is implemented within the classroom and have experience of supporting young adults with a range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities

Closing date: 5th October 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a....

Senior Physiotherapist

to join and enhance our high calibre team

Medway Scale A - point 37 to 46 (£30,851 to £38,961)
(Full time - term time only - pro rata)

Abbey Court School is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Physiotherapist, with a professional and flexible approach. In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting who would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their full potential.

Working hours are 37 hours p/w, term time only. Candidates should hold a relevant Physiotherapy qualification. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 28.9.12

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a....

Temporary Art Therapist

to join and enhance our high calibre team

Medway Scale B2 - point 32 to 41 (£27,052 to £34,549)
(2 days per week - term time only - pro rata - to July 2013)

Abbey Court School is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Art Therapist, with a professional and flexible approach. In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting who would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their full potential.

Working hours are 13 hours p/w, term time only across both sites. Candidates should hold a relevant Art Therapy qualification. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 05.10.12 Interview Date 16.10.12

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

It Pays To Advertise

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD

CHURCH HILL, CHILHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to lay phone ducting in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Hill, Chilham, on or after 24 September 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with The Square.

The 'No Entry' from A252 Maidstone Road into Church Hill will be suspended to allow access.

The alternative route is via Taylors Hill and A252 Maidstone Road.

CHURCH LANE, ALDINGTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of electrical cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Lane, Aldington, on or after 8 October 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via A20 Hythe Road, Station Road, Goldwell Lane and Roman Road.

MOCKBEGGAR LANE, BIDDENDEN
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mockbeggar Lane, Biddenden, on or after 8 October 2012 for up to 2 weeks, between 7.30 am and 5.00 pm.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length, i.e. between Cranbrook Road and Goddards Green Road, with no through access.

The alternative route is via Cranbrook Road, Benenden Road and Goddards Green Road.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(ORCHARD STREET AREA, CANTERBURY)

(EXPERIMENTAL RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Sections 9 and 10 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order, which will be in force for a maximum experimental period of 18 months, will introduce a prohibition of driving except for access on the following streets:

Orchard Street

Queens Avenue

Prince's Way

Crown Gardens

St Dunstan's Terrace

New Street

Cross Street

Church Street (St Dunstan's)

Mead Way

The Order was made on 21 September 2012 and will come into force on 1 October 2012.

The Highway Authority will be considering in due course whether the provisions of this experimental Order should continue in force indefinitely.

Any alterations to this Order which will render it less restrictive may be authorised by the Transportation Manager, without the requirement to re-advertise the Order, under section 10(2) of the Act, and after consultation with the chief officer of police.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order, may be examined at the offices of Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW or at Ashford Highway Depot, Kent County Council, Javelin Way. Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Representations to this Traffic Order should be made in the first 6 months of the experimental period. If you wish to support or object to the Experimental Order you should make your representation in writing, including the reasons, to the Transportation Manager, Kent County Council, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford TN24 8AD or by email to td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk by noon on Friday 22 March 2013

John Burr
Director of Highways
Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent

PIGEON LANE, HERNE BAY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage works to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pigeon Lane, Herne Bay, on or after 8 October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed immediately to the west of the junction with Windmill Road.

The alternative route is via Mill Lane, Hillbrow Avenue and Hillcroft Road.

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

CANADA FARM ROAD, DARTFORD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works involving Replacing overhead lines , Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Canada Farm, Dartford, on or after 24 September 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Main Road and Rabits Road.

The alternative route is via Green street Green Road, Gills Road, Homesdale Hill, Shrubbery Road and Rabbits Road.

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

ALBERT ROAD LEVEL CROSSING, DEAL
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance and re-railing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Albert Road Level Crossing, Deal, on or after 29 September 2012, as shown below.

Albert Road, Deal will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The planned closure times are from Saturday 29 September at 0.30 am until Sunday 30 September at 5.00 am.

The alternative route is via Albert Road, A258 Queen Street, Broad Street, Beach Street, King Street, High Street and Ark Lane

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ST JAMES STREET, DOVER
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repair works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on St James Street, Dover, on or after 26 September 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Woolcomber Street and the White Horse Public House.

The alternative route is via A256 Woolcomber Street and A258 Castle Hill Road.

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESHAM

ST MARKS AVENUE, NORTHFLEET
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Marks Avenue, Northfleet, on or after 24 September 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed Between properties 91 and 127.

There will be no access for through traffic between properties 91 and 127.

The alternative route for traffic from the south of Beaumont Drive will be diveted to cremorne Road into St Mark Avenue.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

CHARLTON LANE, WEST FARLEIGH
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of footway improvement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Charlton Lane, West Farleigh, on or after 24 September 2012 for up to 19 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from 'Sunhyll' to 'Elmscroft'.

The alternative route is via B2010 Lower Road, B2163 Ewell Lane, Charlton Lane.

A229 CHATHAM ROAD, BOXLEY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of maintenance works to a motorway bridge, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A229 Chatham Road, northbound slip, Boxley, on or after 24 September 2012 for up to 7 week nights or until the works have been completed.

The A229 Chatham Road northbound slip between The Running Horse roundabout and Cobtree Roundabout will be closed.

The alternative route is coast bound motorway traffic via M20 to junction 5 London bound and northbound non-motorway traffic via A229 Royal Engineers roundabout and return.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the routes described in the Schedule.

The alternative routes as described will be noted in the schedule. Access will be maintained up to the points of closure. The Order will become effective on Thursday 27th September 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

Schedule

Road Name:	Couchman Green Lane, Staplehurst
Extent:	A229 Maidstone Road to Sweetlands Lane
Dates:	Start: 27th September 2012 End: 28th September 2012
Diversion:	A229 Maidstone Road/Station Road, Headcorn Road, Pile Lane
Road Name:	Church Hill, Boughton Monchelsea
Extent:	Butt Green Lane to Stable Cottage
Dates:	Start: 28th September 2012 End: 29th September 2012
Diversion:	Butt Green Lane, Loddington Lane, B2163 Heath Road
Road Name:	Hospital Road, Hollingbourne
Extent:	A20 Ashford Road to Greenway Court Road
Dates:	Start: 30th September 2012 End: 30th September 2012
Diversion:	A20 Ashford Road, Eyhorne Street, Greenway Court Road

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate footway improvement works to be undertaken by KCC Highways. For further information or comment please call Colin Garnham on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AND TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

A229 LOOSE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, A228 SNODLAND BYPASS, LADDS LANE, SNODLAND, TONBRIDGE & MALLING
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a programme of carriageway resurfacing works to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to restrict traffic on various roads in Kent, as shown below.

The Order will become effective on or after Monday 8th October 2012 for up to 3 months, or until the works have been completed.

The planned dates and times for each road closure or restriction are shown below, in a Schedule listed in alphabetical order of District.

Planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 14 days in advance. Road closures and other restrictions will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place.

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule shown below. Some minor modifications may be made to dates and duration of works, to be advised once known.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates.

Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled, as advised locally and signposted on site.

SCHEDULE

MAIDSTONE

A229 LOOSE ROAD, MAIDSTONE - closed between Anglesey Avenue and Walnut Tree Lane

16th October 2012 - 7.00pm to 1am

Alternative route via A229 Loose Road, Linton Road, B2163 Heath Road, Plough Wents Road, A274 Sutton Road and A229 Loose Road.

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING

A228 SNODLAND BYPASS, SNODLAND (NORTHBOUND) - closed between Malling Road (Ham Hill Roundabout) and Holborough Road

15th October 2012 - 7.00 pm until 5.00 am.

Alternative route for light vehicles via Malling Road.

Alternative route for HGV's via A228, M20, A229, M2 and A228

A228 SNODLAND BYPASS, SNODLAND (SOUTHBOUND) - closed between Holborough Road and Malling Road (Ham Hill Roundabout)

15th October 2012 - 7.00 pm until 5.00 am.

Alternative route for light vehicles via Malling Road.

Alternative route for HGV's via A228, M2, A229, M20 and A228

LADDS LANE, SNODLAND - closed at junction with A228 Snodland Bypass at Holborough Road roundabout.

11th October November 2012 - 7.00 pm until 5.00 am.

Alternative route via Ladds Lane, The Street Upper Halling, Vicarage Road,

Kent Road and A228 Snodland Bypass.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

MARKET STREET, MARGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Market Street, Margate, on or after 8 October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 7.

The alternative route is via Marine Drive, Marine Gardens, Cecil Square, Hawley Street, New Street and New Cross Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Market Street will be suspended from New Cross Street to the point of closure, to allow access.

SEAMARK ROAD, MONKTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new water supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Seamark Road, Monkton, on or after 8 October 2012 for up to 5 days, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the entrance to Thanet Earth and the junction with Plumstone Road.

The alternative route is via A299 Thanet Way, A28 Canterbury Road and Seamark Road.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(A26 QUARRY HILL ROAD, TONBRIDGE)
(PROHIBITION OF NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC & RIGHT TURNS)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic (including cycles) and prohibiting right turns on the routes described in the Schedule.

The alternative routes as described will be noted in the schedule. Access will be maintained up to the points of closure. The Order will become effective on Sunday 30th September 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

Schedule

Road Name:	A26 Quarry Hill Road
Extent:	A21 Viaduct
Dates:	Start: 21:00hrs 30th September 2012 End: 05:00hrs 1st October 2012
Diversion:	A21 London bound, U turn at Morley's Interchange, A21 Hastings bound, second exit at Vauxhall Roundabout, A2014 Pembury Road, A26 Quarry Hill Road
Road Name:	A26 Quarry Hill Road
Extent:	Prohibit right turn towards Tonbridge from southbound direction
Dates:	Start: 30th September 2012 End: 16th October 2012
Diversion:	A21 Hastings bound, second exit at Vauxhall Roundabout, A2014 Pembury Road, A26 Quarry Hill Road
Road Name:	A26 Quarry Hill Road
Extent:	A21 Viaduct
Dates:	Start: 21:00hrs 7h October 2012 End: 05:00hrs 8th October 2012
Diversion:	A21 London bound, U turn at Morley's Interchange, A21 Hastings bound, second exit at Vauxhall Roundabout, A2014 Pembury Road, A26 Quarry Hill Road
Road Name:	A26 Quarry Hill Road
Extent:	A21 Viaduct
Dates:	Start: 21:00hrs 8h October 2012 End: 05:00hrs 16th October 2012
Diversion:	A21 London bound, U turn at Morley's Interchange, A21 Hastings bound, second exit at Vauxhall Roundabout, A2014 Pembury Road, A26 Quarry Hill Road
Road Name:	A26 Quarry Hill Road
Extent:	Prohibit right turn into Quarry Hill Road from northbound direction
Dates:	Start: 22nd October 2012 End: 16th November 2012
Diversion:	A26 Quarry Hill Road

Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald for the Highways Agency apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for parapet replacement and refurbishment on the viaduct. For further information or comment please call Nithiy Myuran on 0203 4332128.

REDWELL LANE, IGHTHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Redwell Lane, Ightham, on or after 8 October 2012 for up to 10 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside "The Cottage".

The alternative route is via Common Road, Sandy Lane, Ismays Road.

SWANTON ROAD, MEREWORTH/WEST PECKHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT cabling works for a new connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Swanton Road, Mereworth/West Peckham, on or after 24 September 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed its entire length.

The alternative route is via Stan Lane, Mereworth Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

ASHURST HILL, ASHURST
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a railway bridge examination, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ashurst Hill, Ashurst, on or after 28 September 2012 for up to 1 night between 22:00hrs and 06:00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via A264 Ashurst Road, B2110 Groombridge Hill, B2110 Withyham Road, B2026 Edenbridge Road, A264 Ashurst Road.

FOXHOLE LANE, BRENCHLEY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace a telegraph pole, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Foxhole Lane, Brenchley, on or after 24 September 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Bramble Reed Lane to outside "Chestnut Cottage".

The alternative route is via Chestnut Lane, B2160 Maidstone Road, Bramble Reed Lane.

HINKSDEN ROAD, BENENDEN
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway micro resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hinksden Road, Benenden, on or after 25 September 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Coldharbour Road to Foxhole Lane.

The alternative route is via Coldharbour Road, Mill Street, Sponden Lane, Field Green.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 9th September 2012**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

Do not gamble on people seeing your public notices, call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817044

PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/01568/FUL: Ford Manor Farm, Ford Hill, Hoath, CT3 4LS Conversion of oast house to residential use. **Applicant: J E Batchelor & Partners** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/01575/FUL: Folly Farm, Headcorn Drive, Canterbury, CT2 7FF Engineering drainage works providing Swale and drainage pond to serve four proposed terraced dwellings. **Applicant: Robert Brett & Sons Ltd** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA//12/01577/TPO: 86 Chestfield Road, Chestfield Repollard Willow tree subject of TPO No 7 of 1969. **Applicant: Mr Ford** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01584/FUL: 47 Cromwell Road, Whitstable, CT5 1NW Replacement windows to front of dwelling. **Applicant: Prof S Coulton** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01585/LUE: 19 New Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3AH Certificate of existing lawful use of Stafford House School of English for educational purposes. **Applicant: Stafford House School of English** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01594/VAR: 11-12 Orchard Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AP Variation of condition 09 of listed building consent CA/12/00275/LB relating to conversion of public house to two dwellings with ground and first-floor extensions and associated internal and external alterations; variation in respect of approved drawings including the retention and re-roofing of rear outhouse, provision of additional rooflights to first-floor extension, rearrangement of staircase and interior of No 11 and retention of entrance lobbies. **Applicant: Hill Property Ltd** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01597/FUL: Ileden Farm House, Ileden Lane, Kingston, CT4 6HP Single-storey extension to farmhouse, internal alterations, alterations to outbuilding and landscaping. **Applicant: Mr Steel** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/01598/FUL: 19 Stanley Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5SJ Replacement of timber sash windows and doors with upvc windows and doors. **Applicant: Mrs Biggs** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01601/TPO: Land adjacent to Garlinge Green Road, Petham Felling of seven mixed species trees (subject of TPO No. 3 /A1 of 1959) and replacement with mixed species of trees. **Applicant: Mount Trustees Petham** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01604/LB: Sheepcourt Farm, Duckpit Road, Waltham, CT4 5PY Replacement of UPVC windows with timber painted framed windows. **Applicant: Mrs P Izard** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01606/FUL: Millbank House, Ford Hill, Hoath, CT3 4LP Retrospective change of use of part of the land to the north of Millbank House to residential garden including groundworks to raise the level the proposed area. **Applicant: Mr Stephen Hills** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01609/LB: Dane Chantry Barn, Stone Street, Petham, CT4 5PP Insertion of two windows into flint wall on west elevation. **Applicant: Mrs Elizabeth Cumming** Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 15 October 2012.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 21 September 2012

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0830/SH - 34 Bouverie Road West Folkestone Kent - Crown reduction of Bay Tree, comprising the reduction of height by 3m and lateral limbs by 1m situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0814/SH - Shakespeare Centre 145 - 147 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2DA - Conservation area consent for the partial demolition of first floor structure.

Y12/0823/SH - Earlscliffe 29 Shorncliffe Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2NB - Erection of a terrace of 5 three storey dwellings with garages to the rear and associated access, parking and landscaping.

Y12/0785/SH - 63 Wear Bay Road Folkestone Kent CT19 6PU - Erection of first floor balcony to rear of existing dwelling, with privacy screen and external staircase to rear garden and erection of detached summerhouse in rear garden following removal of existing workshop/studio.

Y12/0824/SH - 127 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2BH - Change of use of upper ground floor and first to third floor offices, to seven self contained flats, together with formation of new shopfront and other external alterations (resubmission of application Y12/0475/SH).

Y12/0601/SH - 5 Radnor Cliff Folkestone Kent CT20 2JW - Erection of a first floor roof extension with balcony and other external alterations.

Y12/0791/SH - 98 Bouverie Road West Folkestone Kent CT20 2PP - Felling of a self set Sycamore tree situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0671/SH - Inverness Suite The Grand The Leas Folkestone Kent CT20 2LR - Listed building consent for the division of a single unit to 3 No. units to include the demolition of internal walls and chimney breast; erection of new partition walls; creation of new opening and erection of external access bridge.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 8TH OCTOBER 2012

SW/12/1063 & SW/12/1064:
Part demolition, refurbishment and extension of outbuilding to form a new garage and sun room - Little Fisher Street Farm, BADLESMERE; **REASON 2**

SW/12/1088 & SW/12/1091:
Conversion of garages and outbuilding to holiday letting accommodation including partial demolition of garage structure - Church Farm House, Church Hill, HERNHILL; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1089 & SW/12/1092:
Removal of conservatory and erection of garden room and storm porch to rear - Church Farm House, Church Hill, HERNHILL; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1103:
Variation of condition (3) of planning permission SW/10/0240 to allow a further 2 years to construct retail units - Parcel 4, Thistle Hill MINSTER; **REASON 3**

SW/12/1117:
Single storey rear extension; 4 Lilac Cottages, Canterbury Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1122:
Construction of a 4 bedroom detached dwelling with integral garage space and associated parking spaces and turning area - Land adjacent to The New Bothy, Lynsted Lane, LYNSTED; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1124:
Single storey side extension to create one number classroom with associated wcs - Selling C of E Primary School, The Street, SELLING; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1127 & SW/12/1128:
Demolition of non-listed buildings - HM Prison, Standford Hill, Church Road, EASTCHURCH; **REASONS 2 & 3**

SW/12/1133 & SW/12/1143:
Proposed extension and alterations to existing dwelling and demolition of existing garage - The Gate Lodge, The Vallance, LYNSTED; **REASONS 1 & 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

PLANNING

FORM OF NOTICE SPECIFYING LAND AND STATING EFFECT OF GENERAL VESTING DECLARATION
THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SHEPWAY (LAND AT DUNSTALL LANE, ST MARY'S BAY) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2011

To:

of:

1 Notice is hereby given that the District Council of Shepway ("the Council") on 13 September 2012 made a general vesting declaration under section 4 of the Compulsory Purchase (Vesting Declarations) Act 1981 ("the Act") vesting the land described in the Schedule to this notice ("the land") in themselves as from the end of the period of 28 days from the date on which the service of the notices required by section 6 of the Act is completed.

2 The Council will in due course tell you the date on which the service of the notices was completed.

3 The effect of the general vesting declaration is as follows:

4 On the first day after the end of the period referred to in the first paragraph of this notice ("the Vesting Date") the land, together with the right to enter upon and take possession of it, will vest in the Council.

5 Also, on the Vesting Date the Acts providing for compensation will apply as if, on the date on which the general vesting declaration was made (namely 13 September 2012), a notice to treat had been served on every person on whom the Council could have served such a notice (other than any person entitled to an interest in land in respect of which such notice had actually been served before the Vesting Date and any person entitled to a "minor tenancy" or a "long tenancy which is about to expire". These expressions are defined in Appendix A to this notice).

6 If the land includes any land in which there is a minor tenancy or a long tenancy which is about to expire, the right of entry will not be exercisable in respect of that land unless, after serving a notice to treat in respect of that tenancy, the Council having served on every occupier of any of the land in which the tenancy subsists a notice stating that, at the end of a specified period (at least 14 days from the date of the service of the notice) they intend to enter upon and take possession of the land specified in the notice, and that period has expired: the vesting of the land will then be subject to the tenancy until that period expires, or the tenancy comes to an end, whichever happens first.

7 Schedule 1 to the Act contains supplementary provisions as to general vesting declarations. These provisions are set out in Appendix B to this notice.

8 A copy of the general vesting declaration to which this notice refers and of the plan annexed to the declaration can be inspected at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY (tel: 01303 853000 and may be seen during their normal opening hours and are also placed on its website at www.shepway.gov.uk.

9 Electronic copies of the Order as confirmed by the Secretary of State and of the map referred to will be provided upon request. Please contact the Legal department at the Council (email: estelle.culligan@shepway.gov.uk) to request copies.

SCHEDULE
LAND COMPRISED IN THE ORDER
AS CONFIRMED
LAND TO BE ACQUIRED

1 All interests in Dunstall Lane, other than those of the acquiring authority and any adjoining owners rights, over the land outlined in red and delineated number 1 on the plan annexed to the said Order.

2 All interests in the land known as land on the West Side of Dymchurch Road St Mary's Bay outlined in red and hatched red and delineated number 2 on the plan annexed to the said Order.

APPENDIX A
COMPULSORY PURCHASE
(VESTING DECLARATIONS) ACT 1981

2. Interpretation and construction

(1) "minor tenancy" means a tenancy for a year or from year to year, or any lesser interest.

(2) "long tenancy which is about to expire", in relation to a general vesting declaration, means a tenancy granted for an interest greater than a minor tenancy, but having on the Vesting Date a period still to run which is not more than the specified period (that is to say, such period, longer than one year, as may for the purposes of this definition be specified in the declaration in relation to the land in which the tenancy subsists).

In determining what period a tenancy still has to run on the Vesting Date it shall be assumed:

(a) that the tenant will exercise any option to renew the tenancy, and will not exercise any option to terminate the tenancy, then or thereafter available to him; and

(b) that the landlord will exercise any option to terminate the tenancy then or thereafter available to him.

APPENDIX B
COMPULSORY PURCHASE (VESTING DECLARATIONS) ACT 1981
SCHEDULE 1 - DIVIDED LAND
PART I BUILDINGS AND GARDENS ETC.

1. In this Part of this Schedule-

"notice of objection to severance" means a notice under paragraph 2(1) below, "land proposed to be severed" means land in respect of which notice of objection to severance is served.

2. (1) If a general vesting declaration comprises part only of-

(a) any house, building or factory, or

(b) a park or garden belonging to a house,

any person who is able to sell the whole of the house, building, factory, park or garden may by notice served on the acquiring authority require them to purchase his interest in the whole.

(2) Except as provided by paragraph 10 below, a notice under this paragraph shall not have effect if it is served more than 28 days after the date on which notice under section 6 of this Act is served on the person giving notice under this paragraph.

(3) Section 8(1) of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 (which makes other provision for objection to severance of buildings, gardens etc.) shall not apply to land in respect of which a general vesting declaration is made.

3. Where notice of objection to severance is served within the time allowed in accordance with paragraph 2(2) above then notwithstanding section 8 of this Act-

(a) the interest in respect of which the notice is served shall not vest in the acquiring authority, and

(b) if he is entitled to possession of the land, the acquiring authority shall not be entitled to enter upon or taken possession of it, until the notice has been disposed of in accordance with the following provisions of this Schedule.

4. (1) Within 3 months after a person has served on an acquiring authority a notice of objection to severance, this authority shall either-

(a) serve notice on him withdrawing the notice to treat deemed to have been served on him in respect of his interest in the land proposed to be severed, or

(b) serve notice on him that the general vesting declaration shall have effect, in relation to his interest in the land proposed to be severed, as if the whole of that land had been comprised in the declaration (and in the compulsory purchase order, if part only of that land was comprised in that order), or

(c) refer the notice of objection to severance to the [Upper Tribunal] 1 and notify him that it has been so referred.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1)(a) above has effect notwithstanding section 7(3) of this Act.

5. If the acquiring authority do not take action in accordance with paragraph 4 above within the period allowed by that paragraph then at the end of that period they shall be deemed to have acted in accordance with sub-paragraph (1)(a) of that paragraph.

6. Where in accordance with paragraph 4 or paragraph 5 above the notice to treat deemed to have been served in respect of a person's interest in the land proposed to be severed is withdrawn, or is deemed to have been withdrawn-

(a) that interest shall not vest in the acquiring authority by virtue of the general vesting declaration, and

(b) If he is entitled to possession of that land, the acquiring authority shall not be entitled by virtue of that declaration to enter upon or take possession of it.

7. Where an acquiring authority take action in accordance with paragraph 4(1)(b) above, the general vesting declaration (and, where applicable, the compulsory purchase order) shall have effect as mentioned in that subparagraph, whether apart from this Part of this Schedule the acquiring authority could have been authorised to acquire the interest in question in the whole of the land proposed to be severed or not.

8. (1) Where in accordance with paragraph 4(1)(c) above an acquiring authority refer a notice of objection to severance to the [Upper Tribunal] 1 , and on that reference the Tribunal determines that the part of the land proposed to be severed which is comprised in the general vesting declaration can be taken-

(a) in the case of a house, building or factory, without material detriment, or

(b) in the case of a park or garden, without seriously affecting the amenity or convenience of the house, paragraph 3 above shall thereupon cease to have effect in relation to that notice.

(2) In making a determination under this paragraph in any of the cases in sub-paragraph (1)(a) or (b) above the Tribunal shall take into account not only the effect of the severance but also the use to be made of the part proposed to be acquired and, in a case where the part is proposed to be acquired for works or other purposes extending to other land, the effect of the whole of the works and the use to be made of the other land.

9. (1) If on such a reference the [Upper Tribunal] 1 does not make a determination in accordance with paragraph 8 above, the Tribunal shall determine the area of that land (being the whole of it or a part of it which includes the part comprised in the general vesting declaration) which the acquiring authority ought to be required to take; and the general vesting declaration shall have effect, in relation to the interest in that area of the person who served the notice of objection to severance, as if the whole of that area had been comprised in the general vesting declaration, whether apart from this Part of this Schedule the acquiring authority could have been authorised to acquire that interest in the whole of that area or not.

(2) Where sub-paragraph (1) above applies, and part of the area determined by the [Upper Tribunal] 1 was not comprised in the compulsory purchase order, the general vesting declaration shall have effect as mentioned in that sub-paragraph as if the whole of that area had been comprised in the compulsory purchase order as well as in the declaration.

10. (1) Where is accordance with paragraph 2(1) above a person is entitled to serve a notice of objection to severance, and it is proved-

(a) that he never received the notice required by section 6 of this Act to be served on him, or received that notice less than 28 days before, or on or after, the date on which the period specified in the general vesting declaration expired, and

(b) that a notice of objection to severance served by him was served not more than 28 days after the date on which he first had knowledge of the execution of the general vesting declaration.

that notice shall have effect notwithstanding that it is served after the time allowed in accordance with paragraph 2(2) above has expired.

(2) Where in the circumstances specified in sub-paragraph (1) above, a person served a notice of objection to severance after the end of the period specified in the general vesting declaration,-

(a) paragraphs 3 and 6 above shall not have effect in relation to that notice.

(b) paragraph 4 above shall have effect in relation to that notice as if sub-paragraph (1)(a) of that paragraph were omitted,

(c) paragraph 5 above shall have effect in relation to that notice with the substitution, for the words ""sub-paragraph (1)(a)"", of the words ""sub-paragraph (1)(b)"", and (c) paragraph 8 above shall not have effect in relation to that notice, but without prejudice to the making by the Tribunal of any such determination as is mentioned in that paragraph.

Part II - RENTCHARGES AND TENANCIES

11. (1) Where land specified in a general vesting declaration is, together with other land not so specified, charged with a rentcharge, such proportion of the rentcharge as may be apportioned under section 18 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 to the first-mentioned land shall, subject to sub-paragraph (3) below, be treated as having been extinguished by virtue of Part III of this Act on the vesting of that land in an acquiring authority under that Part.

(2) Where by virtue of sub-paragraph (1) above a portion of the rentcharge is treated as having been extinguished, the provisions of section 18 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 shall have effect as if the extinguishment had taken place under that section.

(3) If, in the circumstances described in sub-paragraph (1) above, the person entitled to the rent charge and the owner of the land subject there to enter into an agreement to that effect, the said section 18 shall have effect as if, at the time of the vesting of the land in the acquiring authority under Part III of this Act, the person entitled to the rentcharge had released that land from the rentcharge on the condition mentioned in subsection (2) of that section; and in that case no part of the rentcharge shall be treated as having been extinguished as regards the remaining part of the land charged therewith.

(4) In this paragraph "rentcharge" has the same meaning as in section 18 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965.

12. Where land specified in a general vesting declaration is, together with other land not so specified, comprised in a tenancy for a term of years unexpired, section 19 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 shall have effect in relation thereto as if for references to the time of the apportionment of rent therein mentioned there were substituted references to the time of vesting of the tenancy in the acquiring authority.

Signature:
On behalf of:
Shepway District Council

Date: 13/9/12

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
(ST PAULS DOCKYARD CHURCH)

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2012

COMPULSORY PURCHASE OF LAND KNOWN AS ST PAULS DOCKYARD CHURCH NAVAL TERRACE SHEERNESS KENT

Notice is hereby given that Swale Borough Council has made the Swale Borough Council (St Pauls Dockyard Church) Compulsory Purchase Order 2012 under section 47 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. It is about to

submit this order to the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for confirmation and if confirmed, the order will authorise Swale Borough Council to purchase compulsorily the land described below for the purpose of preserving the listed building.

A copy of the order and of the accompanying map may be seen at all reasonable hours at Swale Borough Council Planning Reception, Floor 2 Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME1O 3HT,

Any objection to the order must be made in writing to Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport FAO Andy Doidge, Heritage Protection Team, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 2-4 Cockspur Street, London, SW1Y 5DH before 10th October 2012 and should state the title of the order, the grounds of objection and the objector's address and interests in the land.

DESCRIPTION OF LAND

One parcel of land of 0.8 hectares comprising the property known as St Pauls Dockyard Church Naval Terrace Sheerness Kent including the hard standing, the green and the avenue of trees.

Abdool Kara
Chief Executive

Date 4th September 2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13

KCC/SH/0323/2012 - Proposed development at Units A & B Highfield Industrial Estate, Bradley Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 6DD

Cube Metal Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for change of use from light industry to recycled ferrous and non-ferrous waste metal transfer unit.

You may view this application at Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY.

Alternatively, details of the application can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the District Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 23 September 2012

Kent County Council

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Canterbury City Council

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Canterbury City Council will be held at The Guildhall, Westgate, Canterbury at 7pm on Thursday 27 September 2012.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

999 Logistics Limited of Shelmerdene Commercial Yard, Addington Green, Addington, Kent. ME19 5BE is applying for a licence to use Shelmerdene Commercial Yard, Addington Green, Addington, Kent. ME19 5BE as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/02396/LBC War Memorial St Pauls Parish Church, Broadwater
- Listed Building Consent: Renovation of memorial, addition of names, renewal of concrete on ground around memorial (LB)

12/02423/FUL The Malt House Dorothy Avenue, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Demolition of existing wood-mill and erection of three new dwellings (LB)

12/02530/FUL Med Spa Clinic 8 - 10 Vale Road, Culverden
- Change of use from A1 retail to D1 clinic for treatment of allergies - Variation of Condition 01 from clinic for treatment of respiratory conditions to clinic providing therapy and childcare services for clients with respiratory conditions (TW/10/00458) (CA)

12/02547/EIAMJ Kent And Sussex Hospital Mount Ephraim, Culverden
- Redevelopment of the former Kent and Sussex Hospital site. 200 dwellings, 43 Senior Living apartments, offices, Primary school, open space, access and parking(CA)(DEVPLN)(EIA)(LB)(MAJOR)

12/02371/HOUSE Slip Mill Cottage Slip Mill Lane, Hawkhurst
- Demolition of existing rear toilet; new single storey side extension; roof extension; dormer to side (north) elevation; rear conservatory (LB)

12/02374/LBC Slip Mill Cottage Slip Mill Lane, Hawkhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of existing rear toilet; new single storey side extension; roof extension; dormer to side (north) elevation; rear conservatory (LB)

12/02166/HOUSE Stiles Oast Maidstone Road, Horsmonden
- Retrospective: Timber framed play structure (LB)

12/02529/HOUSE Gate House Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden
- Demolition of three detached garages and removal of porch. Two single storey extensions and a first floor extensions and alterations. Provision of replacement garage (LB)

12/02534/LBC Gate House Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of three detached garages and removal of porch. Two single storey extensions and a first floor extensions and alterations. (LB)

12/02513/HOUSE 47 & 49 Claremont Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Extensions, alterations & repairs to Claremont Lodge (49) & Chase Cottage (47). Claremont Lodge - Demolition of garages & store (1930's) on two levels and replacement with single storey orangery and garage extension , add pitched roof to two storey 1930s rear extension, removal of 1930s basement steps, replacement with single storey kitchen extension, other roof alterations and repairs, basement alterations and repairs. Chase Cottage - Demolition of 1930s replaced 1990s conservatory and replace with larger conservatory, two storey side extension, off street parking bay. Both properties - internal alterations to 1930s work including demolition within 1930s two storey rear extension to eliminate flying freehold (CA)(LB)

12/02517/LBC 47 & 49 Claremont Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Listed Building Consent: Extensions, alterations & repairs to Claremont Lodge (49) & Chase Cottage (47). Claremont Lodge - Demolition of garages & store (1930's) on two levels and replacement with single storey orangery and garage extension , add pitched roof to two storey 1930s rear extension, removal of 1930s basement steps, replacement with single storey kitchen extension, other roof alterations and repairs, basement alterations and repairs. Chase Cottage - Demolition of 1930s replaced 1990s conservatory and replace with larger conservatory, two storey side extension, off street parking bay. Both properties - internal alterations to 1930s work including demolition within 1930s two storey rear extension to eliminate flying freehold (LB)

12/02394/HOUSE 93 Woodhill Park Pembury, Pembury
- Single storey rear extension (CA)

12/02502/FUL Cowbeech Farm Back Road, Sandhurst
- Replacement dwelling with detached garage; Small increase to residential curtilage (involving change of use of agricultural land to residential) (CA)(LB)

12/02340/HOUSE The Lodge Pembury Road, Sherwood
- Single storey side extension (CA)

12/02395/HOUSE The Lodge Seven Springs Cheshire Home, Sherwood
- Two storey rear extension and alterations (CA)

12/02524/HOUSE 8 Sheffield Road Southborough, Southborough Town Council
- Single-storey side extension and velux window on front roof (CA)

12/02510/HOUSE 3 St Marys Lane Speldhurst, Speldhurst
- Single storey front extension, two single storey side extensions, two storey rear extension (CA)

12/02536/HOUSE 40 St James Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, St James
- Single storey side extension and addition of window to rear lower ground floor (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jonathan MacDonald
Regeneration and Sustainability Director
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 22 September 2012

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/0935/N - MADAM TAYLORS COTTAGES, OTHAM STREET, OTHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 8RP - Listed building consent for the alteration of kitchen window to french doors. **Reason: 3, 4**

MA/12/1405/N - 6, RUMWOOD COURT, SUTTON ROAD, LANGLEY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3NN - Retrospective listed building consent for the erection of satellite dish. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1579/N - OLD FORGE FARM, OLD FORGE LANE, STOCKBURY, SITTINGBOURNE, KENT, ME9 7RY - Proposed conversion of existing ancillary workshop building to form studio and sleeping accommodation ancillary to main house. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1608/N - FAITH HOUSE, 2, ST FAITHS STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1LL - Change of use of first, second and third floors from offices to form 13 residential apartments with extensions and external alterations. **Reason: 1, 2, 6**

MA/12/1633/S - DUCKHURST FARM, CLAPPER LANE, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0JW - Conversion of oasthouse and barn to two residential dwellings with associated alterations. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1654/S - COURT LODGE, LOWER ROAD, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0PD - An application for a new planning permission to replace MA/09/1126 (An application for listed building consent for change of use of 'cow house' into ancillary residential accommodation for 'Court Lodge'). **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1655/N - OLD FORGE FARM, OLD FORGE LANE, STOCKBURY, SITTINGBOURNE, KENT, ME9 7RY - Application for listed building consent for a proposed conversion of existing ancillary workshop building to form studio and sleeping accommodation ancillary to main house. **Reason: 3**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
4 - Application is for Conservation Area Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **7th October 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 23rd September 2012

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CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF ADVERTISEMENTS

IMPORTANT: These Conditions contain an indemnity if You breach Your warranties to Us.

1. General
1.1. These Conditions apply to any advertisement which You have asked Us to publish on Your behalf in a Title (the "Advertisement") and by making such an offer (an "Order") You agree to be bound by these Conditions in that respect.
1.2. These Conditions override any terms stipulated by You on order forms or elsewhere unless We accept those terms in writing. If we do so, these Conditions will apply except to the extent that they are inconsistent with anything so agreed by Us.
2. Definitions
"We" and "Us" means, and "Our" refers to, the Company which is the publisher of the Title in which You have asked Us to publish Your Advertisement.
"Title" means any publication or Website which We publish.
"You" means, and "Your" refers to, the person placing the Order with Us and where that person is an advertising or other agency placing the Advertisement on behalf of their client that agency agrees that it has placed the Order as principal.
3. Orders
3.1. We may insist on You submitting Your Order in writing and if We do so You will not be deemed to have placed an Order until We receive it in writing. If We do not insist that You submit Your Order in writing it is deemed to be placed when the initial Order is made, subject to the terms and conditions below. If You deliver copy instructions to Us, We may treat this as an Order unless it is clearly marked as "not constituting an Order".
3.2. We will notify You if We do not accept Your Order within 3 working days of receiving it. Publication of the Advertisement will mean We have accepted the Order.
3.3. We are not obliged to accept Your Order or to publish any Advertisement placed by You and cannot guarantee insertion, special position, the date or the classification of any such Advertisement, or the distribution of the Title. We will not be liable for any loss or damage incurred as a result of Our failure in these respects. We may reject any Order (in whole or part) prior to (any) publication by notice to You and (to the extent rejected) We will refund any pre-payment in that case but will have no further liability.
3.4. We may carry forward an Advertisement not inserted to the next suitable issue of a Title.
3.5. If You place an Order but fail to provide copy/artwork by the publication deadline, We may repeat any previous relevant Advertisement from You for which We have copy, or use a filler, and charge You the full price of Your Order in any event.
4. Advertising standards, legal obligations and third party rights
4.1. You confirm and warrant to Us that the copy You provide and the publication by Us of an Advertisement pursuant to an Order will:
- be legal, decent, honest and truthful;
- not result in a breach of any relevant Code of Practice, including other provisions of the Advertising Standards Code of Practice
- not breach any legislation;
- not be defamatory;
- not infringe any copyright, trademarks or other legal rights of any person or company and that You have received any consent needed to refer to or portray people (expressly or impliedly) in the Advertisement.
- when appearing on any Archant Website will not contain hyperlinks or metatags linking to the advertiser's own Website unless express prior permission has been granted by Archant.

4.2. You agree:
- to indemnify Us in respect of all costs, damages and other charges We incur or to which We are subject as a result of publication of any Advertisement pursuant to Your Order where there is a breach of any warranty given by You to Us;
- not to be in breach of contract in relation to the Order/Advertisement;
- that We may store, reproduce and distribute copy relating to any Advertisement, including by electronic means;
- that We may without notice or warning destroy any box office correspondence or communication received in response to an Advertisement which We think it inappropriate to deliver;
- that We accept no liability in respect of any loss or damage alleged to have arisen though delay in forwarding or omitting to forward replies to box numbers to the advertiser (however caused)
- that We may liaise with the police and/or any other relevant authority in relation to any Order/Advertisement or any response to any of them We receive (including passing on Your details);
- that We may record and use Your details to perform Our obligations under these Conditions and publish Your Advertisement (including by passing them to other group companies and/or sub-contractors as reasonably necessary to do so);
- if You are an agency acting for a client, that We may provide a proof of the Advertisement direct to the client for approval by whatever means We deem appropriate;
- that We may hold Your details on record for a reasonable period and contact You about future advertising opportunities which We believe may be of interest to You.
- that any material submitted by You is held by Us at Your own risk and should be insured by You against loss or damage from what ever cause. We reserve the right to destroy without notice all such property after the date of its last appearance in an advertisement unless You have given written instructions to the contrary.
- that You acknowledge that We shall have no liability for any variation of up to 10% in the final published size of any advertisement.

5. Cancellation
5.1. We are not obliged to accept a cancellation request (which We may require to be made in writing). All magazine cancellations must be made in writing a least one calendar month prior to the publication date. All other cancellations should be made within four working days of publication.
5.2. If We accept a cancellation for part of a series of Advertisements, We may surcharge You for any insertions in that series which are not cancelled.
6. Artwork
6.1. We retain copyright (and any other intellectual property rights) in all Our artwork, copy and other materials in any Advertisement (even if combined with any of Your copyright materials). In addition, You agree that We own the copyright in the typographical arrangement of all Advertisements. No copy in any form will be returned unless agreed in writing by Us at the time of placing the Order.
6.2. We will not be liable for accidental loss or damage to Your copy, including artwork and photographs, in any format. Accordingly, Our liability for non-accidental damage to Your copy will be limited to the value of the medium in which they are embodied.
7. Errors, omissions or inaccuracies in Advertisements
7.1. We will not be liable for:
- any error (including but not limited to spelling and text errors), misprint, inaccuracy or omission in Advertisements, a proof of which has been agreed by You;
- any error (including but not limited to spelling and text errors), misprint, inaccuracy or omission in an Advertisement, if that error is notified to Us more than one week after its publication;
- any error (including but not limited to spelling and text errors) misprint, inaccuracy or omission in a second or subsequent Advertisement in a series;
- any error (including but not limited to spelling and text errors) misprint, inaccuracy or omission in an Advertisement which does not detract from the essence of that Advertisement.

7.2. Where We acknowledge an error (including but not limited to spelling and text errors) misprint, inaccuracy or omission We will, at Our choice, either publish the corrected Advertisement, or issue You a credit note to a value not exceeding the price of the Advertisement and this will be the limit of Our liability in respect of the error, misprint, inaccuracy or omission.
8. Payment
8.1. Except where We state otherwise, all prices are exclusive of VAT.
8.2. You will pay for an Advertisement on placing an Order, unless credit terms have been agreed. You will be sent an invoice unless You have pre-paid (or a direct debit arrangement is in place), in which case You will only be sent an invoice if You request one.
8.3. Credit terms are that payment is due seven days from the date of invoice, unless You apply for, and We grant, a monthly account.
8.4. A query on an item on an invoice issued by Us will not affect the time at which You are liable to pay the rest of that or any other invoice issued by Us.
8.5. If You do not pay a sum due to Us by the due date, all sums due by You to Us become payable on the due date for the sum not paid and We may suspend further advertising for You and charge You compensation and interest according to the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998.
9. Applicable Law
9.1. Nothing in these conditions shall exclude or limit Our liability for death or personal injury caused by Our negligence, for Our fraud or otherwise to the extent it would be illegal to do so.
9.2. These Conditions shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.

ARCHANT } Regional Ltd. Reg. No. 00019300 ENGLAND Registered Office: PROSPECT HOUSE, ROUEN ROAD, NORWICH NR1 1RE

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH AW15 AND AW15B CHARING

PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above named Order made on 06 September 2012 under Section 118 of the Highways Act 1980 will extinguish:-

i) the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered AW15 which commences at its connection with Church Hill (C92) at NGR TQ 92543 49244 (Point B) and runs in a south south westerly direction for 156 metres to its connection with Egerton Road (C144) at NGR TQ 92495 49095 (Point D).

ii) the entire width of that length of Public Footpath numbered AW15B which commences at its connection with Church Hill (C92) at NGR TQ 92620 49244 (Point C) and runs in a south westerly direction for 166 metres to its connection with Egerton Road (C144) at NGR TQ 92495 49095 (Point D).

As shown on the Order Plan. All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Ashford Borough Concil, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Sonia Coventry at the Kent County Council (address as below). (Tel: 01622 221512) (email: sonia.coventry@kent.gov.uk) before 22 October 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Insepctorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH AW15A CHARING
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above named Order made on 06 September 2012 under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered AW15A which commences at its connection with Egerton Road (C144) at NGR TQ 92593 49104 (Point A) and runs in a north north westerly direction for approximately 150 metres to its connection with Church Hill (C92) at NGR TQ 92543 49245 (Point B) and will add a new length of public footpath numbered AW15A, with a width of 2 metres, which commences at its connection with Egerton Road (C144) at NGR TQ 92593 49104 (Point A and runs in a north north easterly direction for 105 metres to its connection with Church Hill (C92) at NGR TQ 92620 49206 (Point C). As shown on the Order Plan.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Sonia Coventry at the Kent County Council (address as below). (Tel: 01622 221512) (email: sonia.coventry@kent.gov.uk) not later than 22 October 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH EB12 IN DOVER

PUBLIC FOOTPATH EB12
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath EB12, between Melbourne Avenue and the junction with the Roman Road (NGR TR 316 435) from 10th September 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 1st November 2012.

The path is to be closed to enable the completion of surface improvements and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

No alternative route is available.

For detailed enquiries please contact Colin Finch

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH KH210 (PART) HOLLINGBOURNE PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above named Order made on 06 September 2012 under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered KH210 which commences to the rear of Glebelands at NGR TQ 84466 55156 (Point A) and runs in a north easterly direction for 171 metres to its connection with the Pilgrims Way at NGR TQ 84582 55276 (Point C) and will add a new length of public footpath numbered KH210, which commences to the rear of Glebelands at NGR TQ 84466 55156 (Point A) and runs in south easterly direction for 3.5 metres to NGR TQ 84468 55154 (Point B). The path then turns and runs in a north easterly direction for 93 metres, thence in a east south easterly direction for 1.5 metres to NGR TQ 84535 55220 (Point D) and thence in a north easterly direction for 77 metres to its connection with the Pilgrims Way at NGR TQ 84587 55276 (Point E). As shown on the Order Plan.

The new length of public footpath has a width of 2 metres except where the width is restricted to a width of 1.5 metres for a distance of 4 metres at NGR TQ 84468 55153 (Point B).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Sonia Coventry at the Kent County Council (address as below). (Tel: 01622 221512) (email: sonia.coventry@kent.gov.uk) not later than 22 October 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH KM4 IN THE PARISH OF TESTON

PUBLIC FOOTPATH KM4
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath KM4, between NGR TQ 707 529 and NGR TQ 708 532 from the 11th October 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact John Pelham

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 23rd September 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

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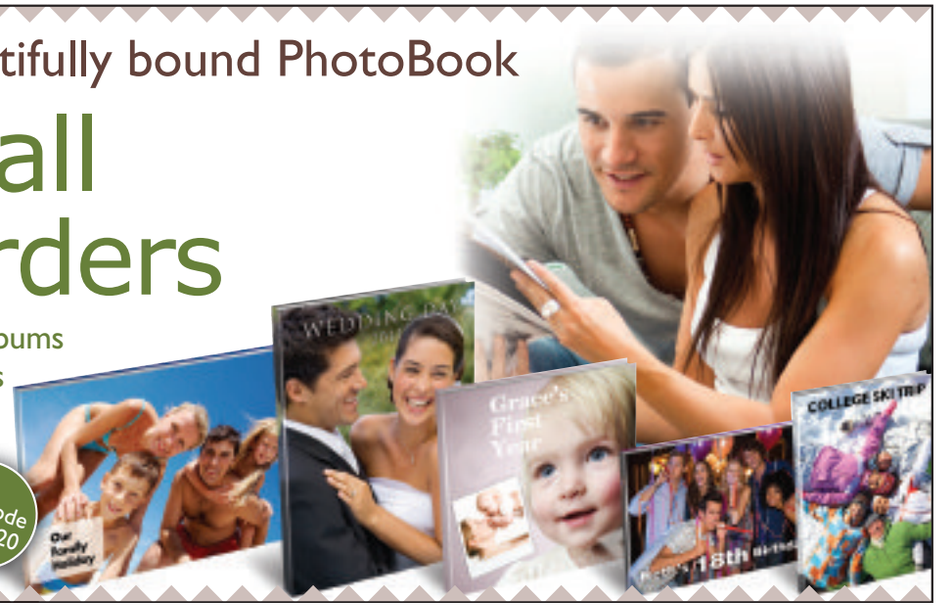

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Riviera of Lights - Monaco, Côte d'Azur & Italy

Escorted Rail Holiday from London & Ebbsfleet*

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£489pp

6 December, 2012

Our big-little-festive-adventure combines three great Mediterranean countries with the romance of European rail travel. Monaco positively buzzes and sparkles during the Christmas season with festive lights and decorations. In Nice, the Place Massena hosts a charming Christmas Market. The nearby Italian seaside town of Ventimiglia has a renowned traditional market and a rustic charm far removed from its glamorous neighbours.

INCLUDED : Escorted throughout • Return rail travel London St Pancras to Nice • 4 nights, 3 star hotel B&B in Nice • Return coastal train rides Nice to Monaco & Ventimiglia

Nice

Monaco

Menton Lemon Festival, Nice Carnival & Monaco

Escorted Rail Holiday from London & Ebbsfleet*

8 days, semi-all-inclusive

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From £849pp

21 February, 2013

This super holiday, taking in the French Riviera's premier Carnivals, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras' famous Champagne Bar before an escorted afternoon departure by Eurostar (from Ebbsfleet on request). On the Riviera enjoy Free Drinks every night, visits to Menton Lemon Festival, Nice Carnival, Monaco & Cervo. We stay in Diano Marina, situated on Italy's Riviera of Flowers.

A Lemon Festival display.5

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Champagne check-in at London St Pancras • Return rail travel from St Pancras (*from Ebbsfleet on request) - afternoon departure • Overnight hotel B&B in Paris outbound • 6 nights half board in Diano Marina, including free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night • All excursions • All transfers abroad

Rail Option: Luggage handling - £29pp

Grease & Saturday Night Fever Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village, Suffolk Coast

Self drive - 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote XP11-KOS

£99pp

2 November, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed Christmas Party - for over 40s only - at Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village. Enjoy great variety entertainment including a Grease tribute act & movie screening, the best of disco, a 99p Bar every night, ground-floor chalet accommodation, an indoor pool, Pakefield's peaceful seafront location near Lowestoft and much more.

INCLUDED:

• 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night • Variety Entertainment every night featuring Grease tribute act & movie screening • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • 3 nights en-suite chalet with TV & tea/coffee-making facilities - upgrades available

Good value, good service

Value for money, good service throughout our stay. Staff all very helpful and friendly – Mr Scripps of Kent

Very good value – Mr & Mrs Thurbon of Kent

GN People very friendly and helpful – Mrs Norman of Sidcup

What Readers said about our Exclusive Party Breaks at Pontin's Pakefield

Carry on New Year Parties at Bosworth Hall Hotel

Market Bosworth, Leics

Self-Drive - 2 nights, half board+ 99p Bar

Quote BH1-KOS

Was £109pp

Now £89pp

4, 11, 18, 25 Jan & 8 Feb, 2013

Join us for a weekend party break that extends the New Year celebrations. Enjoy 99p drinks from 6pm to 11pm and entertainment nightly at Bosworth Hall Hotel, located in the village of Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. All the bedrooms are en-suite with TV, telephone, trouser press and tea & coffee tray. Leisure facilities include an indoor pool & gym (£4 per day payable at the hotel).

INCLUDED:

• 99p drinks from 6pm to 11 pm nightly - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks and mixers

• 2 nights sharing a twin/double-bedded en-suite hotel room

• 2 breakfasts & 2 dinnners

• Entertainment

Bembridge Coast Hotel

Isle of Wight Carry on New Year Party

For over 40s only

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS Free Bar

Quote BX1-KOS

£239pp

11 January, 2013

Our Carry on New Year Party is back at Warner Bembridge in 2013 by popular demand. Once again fun is the theme with plenty of entertainment and a party atmosphere throughout at this super seaside hotel.

INCLUDED:

• Free Bar from 6pm to 11pm every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

• Full entertainment & activities programme

• 3 nights en-suite hotel accommodation – upgrades available

• 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts

• Car ferry crossing

Come Dancing Party

Enjoy ballroom and latin dancing? We're running our popular Come Dancing Party alongside the Carry on New Year Party - add dance tuition, a Gala Ball and much more for just **£20pp** extra

Meet your perfect partner through your local trusted dating service

Call: 0800 032 9100 to place a free ad

Women Seeking

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 635 0508

(T&C's below)

GENUINE attractive, intelligent fun loving woman, 57, hopes to meet well travelled, educated, socially adept man for love, laughter and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396621**

HI I am Tess, single, sexy, solvent, professional but very lonely, looking for genuine fun with reliable male, 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395691**

SINGLE professional 39yr old, travels with work, looking for some out of hours entertainment. call me to find out more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395689**

BUBBLY female, 49, kind, caring, honest, GSOH, brown hair, blue eyes, likes meals out, pubs, cooking, cinema, seeks male with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390815**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, well travelled, intelligent, GSOH, seeks genuine, affectionate male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393897**

CHRISSY 51, 5ft 8ins, blue eyes, brown hair, large build, size 22, seeks local male from loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395209**

ATTRACTIVE caring lady, 77, 5ft 1ins, GSOH, fit, varied interests, seeks sincere gent, N/S for companionship and happiness. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395453**

GILLY green eyed red haired nurse looking to start a new life with similar lonely male also looking for genuine love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395043**

ANNE attractive 30's student nurse who loves to keep fit and travel looking for broadminded professional male, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395037**

CLAIRE 19yr old bored busty blonde seeking male for fun times in or out. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395033**

FLOSSY likes cinema, meals out, nights in, looking for N/S male, 65-66 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392906**

5FT 7ins female, blue eyes, black hair, trustworthy, GSOH, likes animals, walks, nights in/out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396149**

56YR old female, likes music, varied interests, seeking well travelled male, 46-60 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392834**

DEBBIE is 28yrs, petite and blonde. Loves gym and fitness. WLTM a sensitive male, looks and age unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395659**

FRANCES is a curvy mid 40's lady, loves most things, could she love you? Call to find out. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395653**

SARAH 40, large, tactile, likes cuddles, walks, cinema, beach, meals out, seeking male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390912**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331**

SENSUAL 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309**

36YR old single mum, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, medium build, GSOH, likes music, walks, animals, cinema, nights in, meals out, seeks sincere male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396373**

LADY 71, 5ft 7ins, seeks dance partner of similar age and height. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396391**

HI I'm Bev, 44yrs old, tall and blonde. Good wicked SOH and varied interests. WLTM kind chap, looks unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395699**

EMMA is a dizzy hairdresser, 24yrs old looking for a guy with hair to work on! Any age, looks unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395695**

SARAH 29yrs slim and dark haired WLTM older male. Sarah likes various things and wants to try them with you. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395693**

SARAH is a busty blue eyed blonde seeking a fun guy in local area. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395683**

TINA young 64, smoker, GSOH, loving, caring, likes animals, meals out, seeks male for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394201**

JULIE 5ft 9ins blue eyed blonde looking for male for mutually convenient meets, looks/status unimportant, discretion a must. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394123**

SUSAN first time advertiser very lonely and looking for love with considerate, loyal male with lots of love to give and GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393489**

TRACY likes nights in/out, seeking honest male, 36-46 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391884**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTM Mr Right if he is out there? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305**

LOUISE young 48, long hair, blue eyes, cultured, easygoing, good natured, seeks intelligent, genuine guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389389**

LINDA 42, easygoing, likes cinema, walks, theatre, seeks N/S male with similar interests for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395523**

LADY 70, likes most things, WLTM gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394309**

JAYNE honest sincere attractive lonely professional, OHAC, looking for fun times with similar lonely gent, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390985**

AFFABLE serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music WLTM genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

MEL easy going middle aged singleton looking for adult companionship with nice male who appreciates a feminine, attractive lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392487**

WELL educated female, slim, smart, mid 50's, needing to restart life, looking for tall, slim, smart gent with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391136**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, professional/military gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394525**

GINA 65, likes bowling, golf, looking for N/S male, 60-66 for friendship, fun, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394623**

HELEN 34yr old single mum to one, tall, slim and attractive, WLTM intelligent male for good conversations and adult meets, 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394475**

ELISA blue eyed brunette 39, curvy and delicious, loves to travel and live life, seeking similar free spirited loving male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394461**

PAULA 27, attractive brunette, very outgoing and sensual looking for similar male for mature broadminded relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394571**

KAREN pretty single mum of one, 34, independent, professional, OHAC, looking for someone special to enjoy good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394563**

MID 40's slim, attractive female, seeks single male, 65-80 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391989**

SARAH 27yr old single mum, independent, very pretty, GOSH, many interests, seeking male for cuddles and lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391097**

DENISE very normal single white female, likes nights in/out, keeping fit, seeking genuine romantic black male for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391093**

MARGARET middle aged, attractive, likes storm chasing, cooking, seeks male with GSOH, possible forces. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391648**

RACHAEL blonde haired attractive female 27, looking for love with fun guy who like me is not looking for anything too serious, Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394667**

SERENE affable black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, friendly, loves reading nature, theatre, music, sports WLTM genuine caring gent, 34-47 to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

TRACY mum of two, blonde, slim, attractive, tactile and very sexy for age, WLTM male 30-50yrs for ltr, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394665**

FIT active lady, early 70's, honest, caring, OHAC, likes gardening, music/dance, seeking nice companion to enjoy life together and have good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394915**

LADY likes most things, wishes to meet gent 62-68 for evenings in/out, cinema, walks, talks and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392472**

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381727**

HI genuine, fun to be with male? Nancy 39, attractive, discreet, lonely and in need of some much missed male attention. Call me **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381705**

IRENE looking for happy go lucky relationship with trustworthy male for romantic evenings in, quiet nights out, passionate weekends away and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381701**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, NS, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071**

JEM 24 new to this, WLTM someone who also enjoys fine wine/dining for good times and adult relationship, 28-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392497**

ELIZABETH 70 plus, enjoys life, GSOH, seeks caring man for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390990**

51YR old attractive Queen of the Jungle, seeking genuine, caring older gent for uncomplicated times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390916**

JACKIE 32 attractive classy professional, blue eyes, brown hair, healthy/trim, well travelled, feminine, smart, seeks male, 40-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391013**

LESLEY professional single mum, a bit of a chatterbox, loves fine dining/wining, WLTM eligible bachelor to take advantage of. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394659**

SALLY 27yr old Air Hostess seeking honest reliable male to join the mile high club, discreet liaisons and friendship with benefits. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394655**

GINA 65, likes bowling, golf, looking for N/S male, 60-66 for friendship, fun, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394623**

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703**

JENNY very young shy black female looking for reliable, genuine nice older man to help me become an attentive lover, 40-70yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374701**

HELLO I'm Jane, attractive, genuine, caring, intelligent, romantic and single at 38yrs, what are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374677**

ALISHA blue eyed petite brunette, likes to keep fit, cooking, holidays, seeks male 30-45 for special times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392399**

MICHELE very attractive black single mum, 32yrs, someone you could take home to your mother, seeking a one in a million guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391879**

GEORGINA likes horses, dogs, walks, seeks male, 60-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386426**

SHARON 33, slim blonde, blue eyes outgoing, attractive, looking to put some much needed fun back into life, seeks male 30-45yrs. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383047**

PETITE French lady, likes to be pampered, seeks sugar daddy, 40-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579**

FEMALE 58, widow, attractive, seeking mature gent, 60 plus with GSOH for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379649**

ATTRACTIVE 48yr old lady, slim, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes travel, cooking, working out, seeking loving man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390868**

MICHELLE fit trendy 40's female, no ties, good job, OHAC, fun to be with, looking for honest trustworthy male for friendship, poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389757**

TRUDIE blue eyes, dark hair, solvent, OHAC, enjoys life, spending money, going out, seeking genuine male to enjoy life with and spoil. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389755**

SOPHIE lonely fun attractive female, 21, looking for fun nights out and cosy nights in with similar male, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389731**

ANNE romantic lady, 60's, looking for that special someone for LTR, late 50's or 60's with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386225**

DONNA 24yr old single nurse, curvy, pretty, brown hair, big eyes, single and fun to be with, WLTM mature male for romance 25-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391117**

DEBS 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273**

AMANDA 25yr old easygoing singleton looking for fun times only with mature male, 35-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389733**

ATTRACTIVE lady 45, medium build, fair hair, 5ft 2ins, seeks kind gent for companionship and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383987**

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, short dark hair/eyes, slim, daughter, easygoing, likes dinner, cinema, bowling, gym, music, travel, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386337**

SUE young looking vivacious female with great sense of humour, OHAC, independent, interesting and sensual, seeking single tactile male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386275**

MARIE 45, Irish, GSOH, seeking male with GSOH and lots of energy for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391222**

VERY attractive single black female, 32, loves night in/out, seeking genuine companion for text fun, love and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393131**

YOUNG in outlook 60yr old lady, seeks gent with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393173**

51YR old lady, seeking fun loving, genuine man for socialising and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389840**

28YR old lady, seeking male, 35-60 for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391756**

MANDY 45, 5ft 6ins, attractive, blue/green eyes, trendy, seeks tall, N/S male of similar age with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384555**

ROMANTIC white male, early 50's, tall, dark, attractive, many interests, seeks tall, black lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395213**

MALE seeking easygoing female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395157**

AFFECTIONATE fun loving male, 50, good company, slim, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female to share good times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393649**

STEWART 50, 5ft 11ins, likes dancing, seeking companionship, maybe more with lady 40-50. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392178**

BRETT 35, enjoy socialising, cinema, travel, gym, seeking female, 25-35. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393883**

44YR old single man, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, N/S, seeking lady, late 30-40's for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392132**

MICHAEL dark hair, brown eyes, 5ft 9ins, outgoing, likes cinema, meals out, walks, animals, looking for friendship, romance and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394863**

MALE 55, seeks attractive lady for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394761**

GARY 30, flirty and fun, interested ladies. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392298**

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SOLVENT good looking, attentive, discreet male looking for fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393026**

HOPEFUL fun loving, young male, 50, good company, genuine, sincere, easy going, seeks female to rediscover full life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396855**

CHRIS genuine, N/S, 60, likes cycling, walking, seeks soul mate to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396825**

FIT 55yr old male, seeks adventurous lady for broadminded adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396805**

SEYMOUR mid 60's, likes cruising, travel, socialising, seeks active, N/S lady to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396675**

JOHN romantic, caring, likes country/coastal walks, music, candle lit suppers, seeks special soul mate to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396617**

MALE 57, WLTM female 45-55, all I can give is guaranteed love, devotion and affection. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396497**

HANDSOME builder, 44, great body, charming, N/S, 5ft 10ins, seeks female, 35-65 for discreet passionate meetings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392926**

33YR old male, looking for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396345**

MALE 70's, likes dancing, holidays, meals out, seeks lady, 75-85 to share the sunshine years. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396335**

SUB male, WLTM mature extremely dominant female for happy relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395327**

MATURE gent seeks attractive young female as companion on 6 week holiday in late August. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395529**

PRESENTABLE Surrey male, looking for lady for afternoon fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395521**

MICHAEL romantic, honest, caring, seeks lady to brighten up lonely life, likes walks, meals out, nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395445**

DOMINANT male, seeking submissive female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396461**

LONG term lover required with no strings by caring, open minded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396423**

ROBERT 43, looking for fun with female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392938**

DAVID 37, good looking, fit, seeking older lady for discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392242**

JAMES 40's, good looking, single dad, seeking lovely lady for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393665**

49YR old male, 6ft 1ins, easygoing, seeking serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394535**

50 and shades of grey, looking for day time fun with female, 18-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394401**

SPANISH/SWEDISH speaker sought for 67yr old Chartered Accountant for education and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392306**

MALE likes animals, simple things in life, seeks N/S, tall, slim female with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391738**

DAN 18, easygoing, looking for sweet, petite female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395215**

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ALAN 62, well built, 16st, sub, seeks dom guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396811**

MALE seeks CD/TV looking for warmth and tenderness in their life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396613**

46YR old male, slim, tactile, seeks mature, masculine man, 50 plus for fun and good company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394583**

PRETTY blonde 47, medium build, looking for boyish female, 50's for cosy nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388798**

Friendship

MALE 46, looking for guy, slightly overweight, 46-50 for discreet fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387225**

JENNIFER 42, black single mum, lonely, seeks white single mum for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382741**

DEBBIE 40, looking for special male/female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378691**

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Phil Cool brings his rubber face along for a battle against ageism

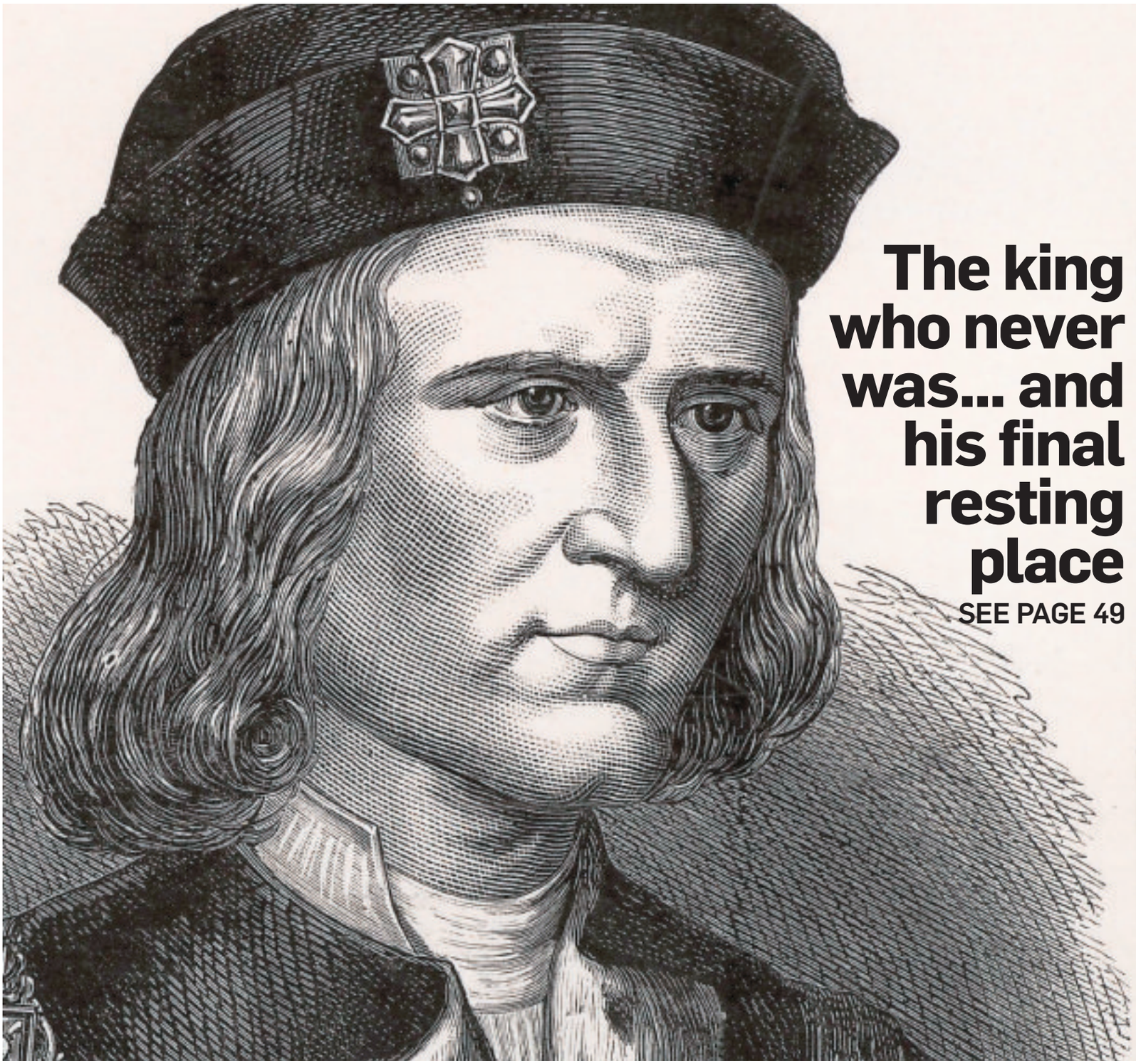
SEE PAGE 52

A GOOD SPORT

Kia Sportwagon upping its fight against the Golf

SEE PAGE 59

Kent Weekend



The king who never was... and his final resting place

SEE PAGE 49

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ROYAL **MYSTERY**

Is this the lost tomb of legend?

Nick Ames discovers what could be the grave of Richard Plantagenet

AS DNA tests take place on the newly-discovered remains that could be those of King Richard III, we can reveal that a long-lost tomb in the Kent countryside may be the last resting place of his son – a man who could have ruled the realm but for one battle.

In the grounds of a ruined church near Ashford, a grave inscribed with the words "Richard Plantagdnet 1550" lies, covered in the ivy of ages, by the shores of a lake.

Romantic legend has long associated Eastwell Manor with the last survivor of the family of King Richard, who is reputed to have lived his life in anonymity after his father's defeat by Henry Tudor at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485.

Ironically, red roses, the emblem of Henry, now blossom close to the picturesque burial site in beautiful countryside close to the Pilgrims Way – a far cry from the possible burial place of his father, the defeated monarch, under a Leicester car park.

The story of Richard – a man who, although illegitimate, could have been King of England – was first written down in a letter in 1733 by a man named Thomas Brett, a collector of myths and legends. Roaming the Kent countryside, he encountered the following tale...

In 1545 the Lord of the Manor, Sir Thomas Moyle, was supervising building work when he noticed a quiet elderly man called Richard.

While the other workmen drank or played dice, he read a book. While this was unusual for a man of his class at the time, more astonishingly, the volume was in Latin, the language of clerics and royalty.

Sir Thomas questioned the old man and discovered that originally Richard had no idea who his parents were and had been brought up by a schoolmaster. But every so often a distinguished-looking stranger would ride into the estate and check on his progress. Then, when Richard was in his mid-teens, the mystery man arrived and asked him to go on a journey.

The two rode to a camp filled with knights and men-at-arms preparing for battle and were taken into an ornate pavilion. The young man was then presented to a person in authority who is reputed to have said: "I am your father. If we win tomorrow's battle, I will acknowledge you and provide for you. But if I am captured or killed, we will not meet again and for your own safety you must never speak of this."

EVIDENCE: The name Richard Plantagdnet can be read on a tomb in a forgotten Kentish churchyard

Presumably bewildered, the young Richard reputedly replied: "Who are you, sir?"

"Today I am Richard, King of England. Tomorrow, who knows?" was the reply.

The following day, Richard died on the battlefield and his son retired into anonymity to become a stonemason's apprentice on the estate where he had been brought up.

Hearing the tale, Sir Thomas honoured the man who could have been his king by having a cottage built for him – this is now long gone. After Richard's death, he provided the tomb.

The initial account was contained in a book published in 1735 by a man named Francis Peck and entitled Desiderata Curiosa.

The parish register of Eastwell contains an entry that states: "Rychard Plantagenet was buryed the xxjj day of Desember, Anno ut supra." Next to the name is a mark believed to denote a person of aristocratic birth. The Latin phrase, which means "In the year above", refers to the 1550 at the top of the page and there is no suggestion the document is a fake.

The register itself is believed to date from 1598 and be the work of the vicar of the time, Josias Nicholls, who copied entries from existing documents after a church order across England that all records be copied into vellum books.

The original register no longer exists and the copy is now part of the National Archives.

Richard himself is said to have died at the age of 81 and the story was kept in circulation by members of the Finch family, who took over the estate.

In 1861 a scholar named John Heneage Jesse investigated the reign of a man who was then regarded as one of the greatest villains of English literature, courtesy of William Shakespeare, who was writing at a time when King Henry's descendent Elizabeth I was on the throne.

Heneage's Memoirs of King Richard III states: "Anciently, when any person of noble family was interred at Eastwell, it was the custom to affix a special mark against the name of the deceased in the register of burials. The fact is a significant one, that this aristocratic symbol is prefixed to the name of Richard Plantagenet. At Eastwell his story still excites curiosity and interest... A well in Eastwell Park still bears his name (there is no corroborating evidence for this); tradition points to an uninscribed tomb in Eastwell Church (the name has been concealed in the past through overgrown vegetation) as his last resting place; and lastly, the very handwriting which, more than three centuries ago, recorded his interment is still in existence."

St Mary's Church, Eastwell, is a ruin and a sign on its walls states it is in the care of The Redundant Churches Trust, with the land still consecrated. The nave is destroyed, but the tower and some walls remain.

According to a work entitled Kent Churches, published in 1954, the building fell into disrepair after damage during the Second World War and when the roof collapsed in 1951 much of the glass and fabrics were taken to other places of worship.

Some of the stonework and tombs were taken to the Victoria and Albert Museum and put into storage after being declared to be of historical significance. But, oddly, the Richard Plantagenet tomb was left in situ.

The Ricardian, a magazine dedicated to all things Richard III, reaches the conclusion: "It is true to say though, that there is no evidence that the full legend is true. There is also none that it is untrue."

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"Since having my EWT water softener installed I have noticed the water quality get much better, and the overall experience from my first call through to the installation was faultless. The main areas I notice the improvement is on my taps- I used to have a continuous stream of white limescale gathering around my taps and I'm so glad that it has completely gone. I have noticed my kettle is no longer scaling up which I am also happy about." **- John Thomas, , Grosvenor Road, Ashford, Kent**

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A carnivore's dream but fight any temptation to bite the waitress

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

BREAKFAST might be the most important meal of the day for us Brits, but that shouldn't mean dinner is dismissed as a routine necessity.

If anything, it should be savoured, with the day's stresses behind you and the chance to just stop and wind down.

It certainly shouldn't be rushed and – if we take a leaf out of our Continental neighbours' book – it should be seen as a social occasion.

So, to be sat in a restaurant at 10.30pm with the distinct feeling you're holding up the waitress – from either going home to bed or perhaps hitting the town with friends – is not good. Especially on a Friday night.

The Sixty Six Steakhouse is a great restaurant. One stroppy waitress shouldn't tarnish its reputation and the rest of the waiting staff and the owner were friendly and attentive, even to the point of giving me a tour of the new establishment. And it is lovely, with smart décor, a rustic clay oven and paintings from a local artist on the walls. The menu is also packed with great dishes – a carnivore's dream.

I chose the scallops with black pudding, horseradish potato purée and mustard sauce and my guest the whitebait with salad and ciabatta. Both were delicious and the scallops

perfectly cooked. For our mains we chose the rack of ribs with a mustard sauce and 10oz ribeye steak with a peppercorn sauce.

These days, it seems to be all about plates of barely-there food – artistic creations no more than the size of your palm using exquisite ingredients costing more than the waiting staff.

So it was a treat to see a plate of food that would test Desperate Dan. The sight of the glistening ribs in sticky sauce was glorious, as was my guest's huge steak. Our plates of meat came with side orders: onion rings, fondant potatoes, vegetables and thrice-cooked chips.

The portions were slightly on the small side for the price of £3.20 each and the chips were more greasy than crunchy, but the meat was so delicious that all was forgiven.

At this point, it was getting on to about 10.30pm, not that late for a Friday night.

Our friendly waiter from earlier was replaced by another, who didn't seem impressed when we asked for the dessert menu. We ignored this and chose the Sixty Six Mess – a delicious bowlful of calorie-busting 'mess', full of cream, raspberries and other delights mixed together in a bowl... far from refined but tasty.

My guest chose the white-chocolate cheesecake. Now I love salty food, absolutely adore it, but this was far too salty. We needed a coffee to wash down the delicious/salty desserts, but this was not appreciated by our new waitress, who practically huffed as we placed our order. OK, so it was closing on 11pm, but we'd sat down late to eat. Our meal at The Sixty Six Steakhouse was delicious minus the salty cheesecake, and the atmosphere lovely minus the surly waitress. The bill came to £72.

Marijke Cox

■ **The Sixty Six Steakhouse**
High Street, Sandgate CT20 3BD
Telephone 01303 488867

Calling all young chefs – your time has come

THE longest-running young-people's cooking competition in the county, the Kent Young Chef Award, gets under way this autumn as hundreds of students prepare to compete for the coveted junior and senior titles of 2012.

The award is open to entry from all secondary students in Kent in year groups 7-11, giving aspiring young chefs the opportunity to devise an original main-course dish to serve two people that features regional and seasonal ingredients.

Visit www.producedinkent.co.uk to download an entry form and check the details.

The closing date is Friday, November 2, with the final taking place at K College on Friday, November 23.

Keep taste of summer with a top strawberry

CANTERBURY soft-fruit-grower Paul Kelsey of Kelsey Farms brought his award-winning and aptly-named Jubilee strawberries to the Marks & Spencer store in Whitefriars shopping district for a free tasting session.

Mr Kelsey, whose farm is at Wickhambreaux, concentrates on growing the Jubilee variety of strawberry due to its great taste, shape, colour and texture. He is convinced that Jubilee strawberries are the best available on the market today.

For those who love great-tasting Kentish strawberries, the good news is that they will be in shops until the end of September.

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Joker in the panel pack

Stewart Francis

Winter Gardens, Margate
Saturday, September 22
01843 868302
margatewintergardens.co.uk

WINNER of TV Channel Dave's Funniest Joke Of The Fringe Award 2012, Stewart Francis brings his Outstanding In His Field tour to Kent.

Arguably the king of the one-liners and star of BBC's Mock The Week, Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow and Live At The Apollo comes to the Winter Gardens with his critically-acclaimed show.

And of course it will include the winning joke: "You know who really gives kids a bad name? Posh and Becks".

Francis moved to the UK from his native "Canadia" three years ago and it wasn't long before he established himself as one the best stand-ups in the country, with panel shows and stand-up TV at his beck and call.

Lunacy, tricks and comedy

Jason Byrne

The Orchard, Dartford
Thursday, October 4
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

HAVING charmed thousands of fans across the UK with his previous shows, Irish comedian Jason Byrne returns with the People's Puppeteer.

Last year's Cirque Du Byrne won great acclaim, along with his very own Radio 2 series The Jason Byrne Show.

Dusting off the top hat for another round of comedy, Byrne is renowned the world over for his onstage exuberance and rib-tickling stunts for a unique experience.

The biggest-selling comedian at the Edinburgh Comedy Festival last year, Byrne's inspired, original brand of high-energy intelligent lunacy ensures that there is no other comedian like him.

Make sure you book tickets in advance.

Art from the Highlands

Millar exhibit

Fairfax Gallery, Tunbridge Wells
Sat, Sep 22-Mon, October 22
www.fairfaxgallery.com

TO start the new season at the Fairfax Gallery, rising star Catriona Millar will be exhibiting her work at Fairfax Gallery on The Pantiles.

Recognised as one of Scotland's foremost figurative painters, Millar has been ranked in the top five most collectable Scottish artists at the moment and her work is collected throughout Europe, the Far East and America.

Her colourful paintings enjoy a special place among the contemporary-art-buying public, including such influential admirers as Charles Saatchi.

Millar's work will be exhibited alongside original paintings and sculpture by established and emerging artists from Kent and beyond at the gallery for a month.

Future stars sought

Your place in panto

The Granville Theatre, Ramsgate
01843 855000
trudi.granville@gmail.com
www.granvilletheatre.com

THE Granville Theatre is looking for young stars to star in its Christmas panto for 2012.

There are places for juniors aged 10-17 to take part in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. You must have previous stage experience and training and be able to sing and dance. Auditions will take place on Saturday, September 29, at 1pm at The Granville.

Be prepared to sing and dance to a routine that will be set on the day. You will need to bring along a photograph and CV outlining all your experience and training. There is no pre-registration required – just turn up and try out!

Adults interested in cast roles should email.

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THOMAS & FRIENDS

to join us at Tenterden
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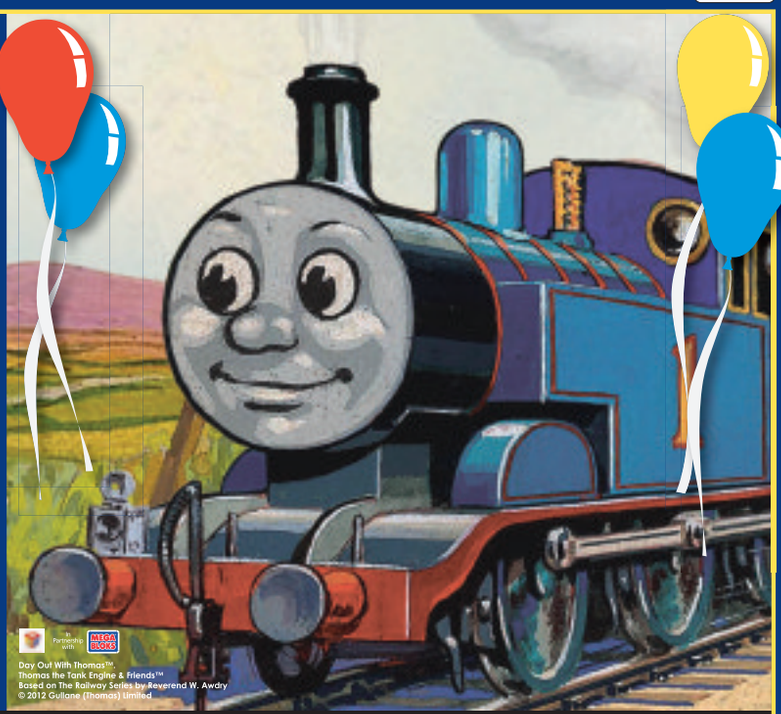

www.thomasandfriends.com

Book Online at www.kesr.org.uk or Telephone 01580 765155

The Angel Addington Green

New Menu Now Available

Sunday lunch price is from £9.95

Live Music on Friday Nights
Simone is playing on the 28th September.

Dare we Say it.....
Book now for our pre Christmas Menu available between 1st - 24th December
2 Courses **£18** 3 Courses **£22**

Contact: The Angel Inn, Addington Green, West Malling, Kent ME19 5BB
01732 842117 angeladdington@aol.co.uk

'Warm up this winter'

Old House at Home

• Live Bands:
23rd September Juicy Lucy
30th September Jeff Everette
7th October Drink 14th October Get Carte
• Open mic night every Wednesday
• Real cask ales • Fresh fish
• Good Food Guide accredited chef.
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01795 662463

Bloomers Restaurant

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AS SEEN ON BBC TV

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www.overcliffehotelkent.co.uk

Red Lion
Circa 1364
Crockham Lane, Hernhill, Kent, ME13 9JR

Located in the picturesque village of Hernhill, there is a warm, cosy atmosphere, with quality home-cooked food. Choose a drink from a varied selection of wines, beers and real ales.

Sunday Lunch - 12pm to 8pm
Choose from a selection of meats including pork, lamb, and beef, served with all the trimmings.
One course £10.50 • Two courses £13.50
Three courses £15.50

A "Taste of Kent" @ The Red Lion, Hernhill
Served in our newly refurbished upstairs restaurant, the "Taste of Kent" menu sources all its produce from within a two mile radius of the pub (excluding fish which is landed at Ramsgate).
Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday - Booking is advisable.

01227 751207 www.theredlion.org

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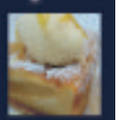
AT CHRISTMAS

NEW RIVERSIDE MENU
With more choice and set menus starting from £12 for 2 courses.
To see The Barge's new restaurant menu, visit www.the-barge.co.uk

Opening Times
Lunch: Tuesday - Sunday: 12pm - 2.30pm*
Evening Dining: Tuesday - Saturday: 6pm - 9.30pm*
*Last Seating

CHRISTMAS PARTY SET MENU 2012
Available from mid-November
For Reservations and Enquiries
please call (Freephone) 0808 166 1024 www.the-barge.co.uk



STARTERS
Parsnip, apple and chestnut soup with parsnip crisps and truffle oil
Classic prawn cocktail, iceberg lettuce and prawn crisp
Kentish blue cheese and marinated beetroot tartlet poached hens egg, 8 year old balsamic and hollandaise sauce (v)
Homemade Kentish terrine of foie gras, game and ham hock with scotch egg and toasted country bread and pear chutney

MAINS
Butter roasted turkey, goose fat roasted potatoes, sage & onion stuffing, pigs in blankets, seasonal vegetables and red wine gravy
Rib of Kentish beef, yorkshire pudding, goose fat roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetables and red wine gravy
Pan-roasted fillet of sea bream on dill mashed potatoes, buttered spinach, roasted fennel and lemon butter sauce
Wild mushroom risotto, roasted Jerusalem artichokes and smoked garlic cream

DESSERTS
Christmas pudding, brandy butter and ginger sauce
Chocolate and macadamia nut brownie with pistachio ice cream and vanilla panna cotta
Profiteroles filled with Baileys cream with hot chocolate sauce
Apple and quince crumble with cinnamon ice cream

Selection of cheese £2 supp or £7 extra course

This Autumn Come & Dine at
THE WAGGON AT HALE

Friday 28th
Live Music - Gracie

Wednesday 10th - Quiz
Help for Heroes Come join us from 8pm for a fun quiz with on the spot prizes… Only £2.50 a person…teams of four… book your team now at the bar…All money raised from the quiz will go directly to the chosen charity…

Wednesday 17th
Christmas Trade Fair

Wednesday October 31st
Halloween Horror Meal

Friday November 2nd
Fireworks
and Halloween party

See our website for further details

WWW.WAGGONATHALE.COM 01634 400800
179 CAPSTONE ROAD, CHATHAM, KENT ME5 7PP

EATING **OUT**

Across the county

There's no place like the Old House at Home

SITUATED on the riverside, the Old House at Home is a beautiful place to sit and enjoy the scenery, along with tasty food and a drink.

The sunsets are some of the most spectacular in Kent, and alfresco dining is a popular attraction as the day draws to an end.

Home-cooked, hearty meals are a speciality of the venue, which prides itself on traditional cooking.

Live music is always on offer and on Sunday, September 23, the team welcomes Juicy Lucy to the pub. On Sunday, September 30, Jeff Everett plays, with more bands on Sunday, October 7, and Sunday, October 14.

The famous jam nights are on Wednesdays featuring top local talent, but don't worry... there is also a secluded hidden courtyard for a quiet drink away from it all.

Real ales are always available and the pub is involved with the Campaign for Real Ale.

Freshly-caught fish is a popular menu attraction and boats make frequent overnight stops on their way to London.

With its motto 'May you come as a stranger but leave as a friend', the Old House at Home is at one of the best locations in Kent. The pub is open from noon until midnight, or until 1am on Saturday and Friday nights.

■ **Old House at Home, High Street, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey ME11 5AA (phone 01795 662463)**

CHEF RECOMMENDS

BLOOMERS: 01474 322131
www.overcliffehotel.com
Starter: Scottish wild smoked salmon with succulent prawns served with mixed leaves and a delicious seafood dressing.
Main: Baked lamb layered with a walnut-and-mushroom stuffing served with a light mint jus served with Dauphinoise potatoes and fresh vegetables.
Dessert: Tiramasu.

OLD HOUSE AT HOME: 01795 662463
Starter: Roasted red-pepper soup served with a black-pepper cream cheese.
Main: Walnut chicken, pan-fried chicken breast with pickled and fresh walnuts with onion and mushroom flamed with Calvados, finished with a creamed reduction and served with vegetables and sauté potatoes.
Dessert: Apple-and-pear crumble with a hint of cinnamon topped with Greek yoghurt.

THE ANGEL AT ADDINGTON: 01732 842117
www.theangelinnaddington.co.uk
Pre-Christmas: Starter of soup or chicken pâté or smoked salmon or leek-and-cheese tartlet.
Main: A choice of roast turkey, salmon fillet, chicken breast or vegetable Wellington.
Dessert: A choice of Christmas pudding, triple-choc cheese cake, panna cotta or cheeseboard.

THE RED LION: 01227 751207
www.theredlion.org
Starter: Pan-fried pigeon breast in butter and black pepper.
Main: Slow-roasted lamb shank on the bone on a bed of mashed potatoes, served with minted peas.
Dessert: Pecan pie.

ROARING SUCCESS: The Red Lion is offering its new 'Kent-only' menu three nights a week

New season, new menu at the Lion

THE Red Lion is a picturesque 14th-century pub on the green in the small village of Hernhill, near Faversham.

Shrouded in history, the pub still contains many original features. The popular watering hole and restaurant offers a selection of traditional English food alongside the frequently-changing seasonal specials.

Facilities include an upstairs restaurant, available for dining and large functions, as well as a front patio overlooking the beautiful church and village green.

There is also a well-established pub garden with many historical features and a large play area for children and families to enjoy.

The team is known for its traditional Sunday roast, at which diners can choose between one course at £10.50, two at £13.50 or three courses at £15.50.

You can choose from a selection of meats served with all the trimmings. Sunday lunch runs from noon until 9pm.

There is a busy steak night on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, with good deals on offer, while there is also a pensioners' special every Wednesday lunchtime.

The à la carte menu is served daily from Monday through to Saturday from noon to 2.30pm and 6pm-9pm.

The team has now also opened its new Taste of Kent-themed restaurant upstairs in the newly-refurbished restaurant area.

The new menu sources all of its produce from within a two-mile radius of the Hernhill pub, excluding fish, which is landed at Ramsgate harbour.

The Taste of Kent menu is available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings and booking is advised if you're to guarantee a table.

There are also varied events for everyone at The Red Lion, including a psychic evening on Thursday, October 4, starting at 7pm. Look out for the weekly yoga classes every Monday evening from 8.30pm.

There will be plenty of live music on Sundays during the run-up to Christmas.

■ **The Red Lion, Church Hill, Hernhill, Faversham ME13 9JR (phone 01227 751207, website www.theredlion.org, email enquiries@theredlion.org)**

An Angel sent for Christmas parties and live music

SET back from Addington Green, The Angel Inn is a picturesque 14th-century building serving a wide range of freshly-prepared dishes in a relaxed, traditional and inviting restaurant environment.

With indoor seating for up to 92 people, a front and rear garden, including a terrace area for outdoor dining, The Angel provides a year-round dining experience for all occasions.

To complement your dining, the restaurant has a varied New World wine list and serves a selection of real ales. The team also offers live music on Friday evenings throughout September and October.

The Stables restaurant area is ideal for functions, larger groups, parties or special occasions. It can seat up to 42 people for large group bookings or be split for smaller groups. It offers a three-course party/celebration menu or can tailor a buffet to suit your budget.

This area of the restaurant was added in the 18th-century and has great character, with tables located within the stable blocks – an ideal meeting place for clubs and social groups.

As the holiday season approaches, The Angel will put on a two-course Christmas menu at £18 and a three-course menu at £22.

This year, a Christmas breakfast buffet will be available, ideal for office team meetings, social groups or simply a get-together. It is available Monday to Friday throughout December from 8am-11.30am at £10.50 per head.

n **The Angel at Addington Green, Addington Green, West Malling ME19 5BB (phone, 01732 842117, website www.theangelinnaddington.co.uk, email angeladdington@aol.co.uk)**

Make a fantastic night of it at Bloomers

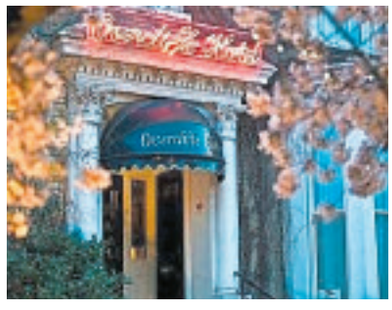
BLOOMERS Restaurant at The Overcliffe Hotel is a rare gem that should not be missed.

Established in 1980, it is one of the best-kept secrets in Kent, offering excellent food and an ambience second to none.

The bar, restaurant and conservatory are all candlelit at night, giving the place a dreamlike quality – ideal for that very special meal with the most important person in your life.

Most Saturdays the resident pianist will serenade diners on the grand piano, performing an excellent selection of music to suit every mood.

This whole truly relaxing experience can be added to as diners sit back with a perfectly-chilled glass of Champagne or an expertly-mixed cocktail in the conservatory while choosing from the first-class menu and extensive wine list.



Drinks can also be served alfresco in the pitcuresque garden area.

Over the years, those who have enjoyed the atmosphere include former Prime Minister Tony Blair and comedians such as Bernard Manning, Freddie Starr, Gerry and the Pacemakers, Rick Wakeman and Max Boyce.

There is even a celebrity corner, where guests and diners can check out who has taken a night at Bloomers before them.

The establishment has also appeared on BBC television... see if you recognise it.

The restaurant is open to non-residents for dinner each evening, but to make the experience complete why not relax, have a drink and book a room to stay over?

The hotel is ideally situated for the town centre, the local train station and Ebbsfleet International station.

■ **Bloomers Restaurant at the Overcliffe Hotel, 15-16 Overcliffe, Gravesend DA11 0EF (phone 01474 322131, website www.overcliffehotel.com)**

YOUR WEEKEND

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Taking samba to the beach
Brazil style

Turner Contemporary, Margate
September 2012-March 2013
01843 233000

BRAZILIAN artist Maria Nepomuceno's new installation Tempo para Respirar or Breathing Time will take place in the dramatic double-height Sunley Gallery at Turner Contemporary.

The pieces will bring the energy and colour of Brazil, with its culture, carnivals and dramatic rainforests. Inspired by South American craft techniques, the artist weaves and sews straw, string and coloured ropes into draping coils and flower-like forms.

These materials form a fantastical landscape populated by playful ceramic shapes, shiny over-sized beads and found objects. Visitors can sit amid the work's many colours and textures, hearing the sounds of Nepomuceno's imaginary universe or just relax in a hammock looking out over the sea.

Partridge pal stepping out
Tim Key

The Gulbenkian, Canterbury
Sunday, September 23
01227 769075
www.thegulbenkian.co.uk

FOLLOWING success with his show The Slutcraker last year, the king of comic poetry Tim Key is back on tour once again, but this time he has brought Masterslut with him.

Still spouting words everywhere, Key has recently cropped up in comedy broadcasts Newswipe, Cowards and We Need Answers. He has also appeared as Alan Partridge's simple sidekick on the Mid Morning Matters internet radio shows.

The comedian won The Edinburgh Comedy Award for his 2009 recital of Slutcracker and was nominated for a Bafta in 2008. His late-night poetry programme on Radio 4 has turned heads in recent times, making him hot property on the UK comedy circuit.

A giant of 90s comedy TV
Phil Cool

The Astor Theatre, Deal
Saturday, October 13
01304 370220
www.theastor.org

FOR a decade there was only one name on everyone's lips when it came to original and creative comedy, Phil Cool.

With award-winning series and specials for both BBC and ITV, the legendary rubber-face man was the toast of television. Programmers, directors and producers vied for his signature and acceptance.

But it has now been almost 20 years since Cool has been seen on our television screens with Cool It and it is time to renew acquaintance as the comedian takes up his new Battle Against Ageism tour, which heads to The Astor Theatre in Deal next month.

There will be plenty of gags, funny faces and wacky wit from a comedy legend.

Warm wartime tunes
Hits from the Blitz

The Granville Theatre, Ramsgate
Sunday, September 23
01843 591750
www.granvilletheatre.com

THE feel-good 1940s show, as featured at Dame Vera Lynn's Charity Gala Nights, heads to The Granville Theatre with the Hits from the Blitz gig.

Wartime tunes and sing-along songs are brought to life by the vocalists and multi-instrumentalists of the Five Star Swing band, featuring Simone Smith from the latter days of the Ivy Benson Orchestra plus Chris Smith (Jnr), composer and arranger for Glenn Miller's Brother, Herb and the BBC Radio Big Band.

Clients have included Blenhiem Palace, Kew Gardens, Chelsea Flower Show, The Savoy Hotel, Imperial War Museum, Grosvenor Hotel, and The Treasury. Tickets £12.

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To be included on this page, please email features@kosmedia.co.uk

The city of laughter

Chatback comedy

The Parrot, Canterbury
Thursday, September 27
Tickets £6-£8
www.chatbackcomedy.com

UP-AND-COMING entertainment group the Chatback Comedy Club returns to Canterbury with its new winter season line-up.

The group offers stand-up slots to established comedians who have already appeared on TV as well as new student comics from the nearby University of Kent.

Nominated for the Chortle Best Venue Awards 2012, the team will launch their second term on Thursday with comedian James Acaster, seen on Russell Howard's Good News.

The group has a long list of stars for the coming season and have put on shows for Milton Jones (Mock The Week), Daniel Simonsen (Foster's Best Newcomer) and Kev Orkian (BGT).

Stepping in...

Andrew Stone joins Stag cast

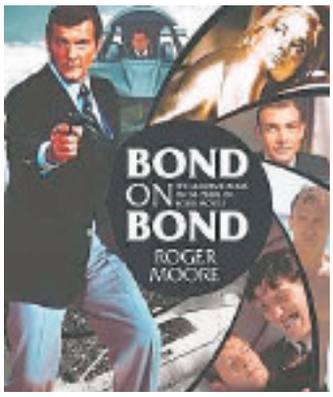
Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks
Sat, December 8-Sun, January 6
01732 450175
www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk

ANDREW Stone, dance instructor at world-famous Pineapple Dance Studios, is heading for the Stag panto.

As well as being lead cast member of Sky 1's Bafta-nominated TV series, the musician, songwriter and Celebrity Big Brother contestant will join Boyzone's Shane Lynch in the cast of this year's Christmas pantomime Aladdin at the Stag Community Arts Centre.

Andrew will replace the previously-advertised X Factor pair Twist and Pulse to take up the role of Chief of Police.

Ticket prices for Aladdin are £17 for adults, £15 for concessions and £11.50 for school performances. More than 1,000 tickets have already been sold, so be quick!



007 returns

Sign here, Sir Roger...

Waterstones, Bluewater
Saturday, October 13
Signing at 3pm
01634 250231

FANS may be a little shaken and more than a bit stirred by the news that James Bond legend Sir Roger Moore is heading to Kent next month.

The secret-agent actor comes to the shopping centre to meet fans and sign copies of his new book, Bond on Bond.

The new book looks back on 50 years of the 007 film franchise as the latest film, Skyfall, featuring Daniel Craig, is set to hit cinemas.

Store assistant manager Paul Hayton said: "Sir Roger Moore is an instantly recognisable household name and much-loved acting icon and we're utterly delighted to be welcoming him here for the second time and giving his many fans a rare chance to meet the legend in person."

Bikes and kites

Festival fun is high and low

Capstone Park, Gillingham
Sunday, September 23
01634 843666
www.whatsonmedway.gov.uk

THE Olympic legacy gets a first chance to show its effect in Medway as the Capstone Bikes and Kites Festival gets under way.

Take in the scenery on one of the four bike trails, or learn about all kinds of bikes, from the classic to the wacky, including the 7 ft-wide Monster Bike.

There'll be plenty of excitement, with quad-biking for the under-10s and stunt-biking workshops run by M.A.D. Mountain Bike Stunt and Display Team.

The very best in alternative technologies will be displayed, giving you the chance to make music from pedal power.

Visitors are also encouraged to bring their kites along and help fill the skies above the park with colour. See online for more times and details.

HOMES

To read this and other property stories visit our property blog @ homes24.co.uk ...or smartphone users can scan this QR code

Property market stays constant in summer of Olympics and Jubilee

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

ACTIVITY in the UK housing market was fairly stable during August despite the distraction of the Olympic fortnight and the Jubilee celebrations, according to the latest housing-market survey by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

However, future predictions are not optimistic – surveyors are gloomy about the rest of the year, with 13 per cent expecting further drops in house prices.

In the three months to August, chartered surveyors sold on average 7.5 per cent of the homes on their books per month.

Although this figure is lower than in many previous years – especially those before the economic situation became downbeat – the proportion of sales to stock has remained relatively consistent throughout 2012.

RICS says that in spite of this, with the Olympics having taken centre stage in the summer, the amount of potential buyers looking to view property saw a slight dip. A net balance of 9 per cent of surveyors reported falls in demand.

Alongside this, the number of new instructions was effectively unchanged on July. With the amount of fresh supply coming on to the market having remained relatively stable so far this year, surveyors report that sales are progressing where vendors are realistic with their asking prices.

Looking ahead, chartered surveyors across the country predict transaction levels to pick up slightly, with 12 per cent of respondents expecting sales to rise rather than fall over the coming three months.

The same cannot be said for future prices, however, with 13 per cent expecting further drops.

"Little changed in the housing market last month," said RICS spokesman Ian Perry. "The Olympics didn't have any real impact on the proportion of sales going through. The amount of people looking at property fell slightly, but, generally speaking, demand held up well."

Overall, the housing market has struggled since the stamp-duty holiday for first-time buyers was withdrawn at the end of March, and confidence was hit by the weakening economy and the eurozone debt crisis.

The August report comes as housebuilders have enjoyed a rise in sales and profits, with Barratt Developments set to report stronger profits and unveil a special dividend for shareholders.

There is also wide-ranging regional variation when it comes to house prices, with Kent holding up reasonably well compared with other parts of the country, particularly the North and South West.

Lower- and middle-range-value homes have been affected worse by the slump than high-value properties, which have largely kept their value.

SOLID: Despite the distraction of London 2012, the housing market has remained stable

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*Prices correct at time of going to press. Specification on site may differ. Picture for illustration purposes only. Bellway reserve the right to refuse a part exchange, terms & conditions can be found at www.bellway.co.uk.

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Sevenoaks, Kent
£180,000-£200,000
Approximately 25 acres of woodland with a timber sawmill which may offer future planning potential

Greatstone, Kent
£150,000
Single building plot with planning for a 2/3 bedroom house with direct access to the beach and stunning sea views

Berwick, East Sussex
£1million
Exceptional opportunity to purchase a 17 acre site with planning for a property of approximately 8,850 sq ft with swimming pool

Saltdean, East Sussex
Guide Price £155,000
Attractive single plot for a house of approx. 1,320 sq ft in an established private road set in the South Downs and with views over.

East Malling, Kent
£250,000
Single plot with planning permission for a detached 3 bed chalet style property which will benefit from far reaching view

Five Ashes, East Sussex
Guide Price £500,000
Renovation or redevelopment project, subject to planning, of a detached property set in grounds of approximately 7 acres

Bexhill on Sea
£275,000
Detached house over three floors which formerly run as a care home and provided 14 bedrooms and other ancillary accom.

Lewes, East Sussex
£140,000
Single plot with planning for a 2/3 bedroom detached house situated on the popular Nevill Estate with garden and parking

East Sutton, Kent
Guide Price £150,000
Unusual opportunity to replace an existing commercial building with a two bed single storey dwelling with planning for holiday accommodation

Lenham, Kent
Offers Invited STP
Site in Royton Avenue which has had planning refused but has potential by inc. further garden land & possibly justify two dwellings

Deal, Kent
Guide Price £360,000
A detached bungalow requiring refurbishment with planning for a detached 2 bed bungalow in the rear garden

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Whitstable, Kent
Guide Price £425,000
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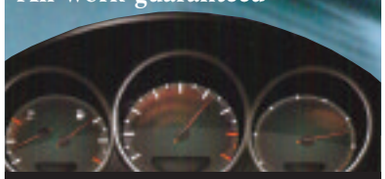

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Eye-catching new Mini is setting the pace
- Kia to unveil all-new hatch/coupé in Paris
- VW Beetle – stylish and now more affordable

208 has a lot to live up to as Peugeot's new baby

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KIA CEED SPORTSWAGON

Price: £16,895
Driving appeal: ★★★★★
Image: ★★★★
Space: ★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: VW Golf

Clever Kia Sportswagon aims for Golf benchmark

JUST three months after the arrival of its all-new second generation Ceed hatchback, Kia has launched the estate version.

As distinctive and stylish as its hatch sister, the new Sportwagon label adds to the newcomer's charisma by replacing the uninspiring 'SW' suffix of the old version.

It's a clever car, too; at just over 4.5 metres long, the Sportswagon is more compact than major European brand rivals, and just 15mm longer than the old car, yet offers greater 'luggability' than most of the opposition, with 528 litres up to the load cover with rear seats upright, and 1,642 litres up to the roof with the 60:40 split rear seats folded flat.

The boot floor is also flush with the tailgate opening for easy loading of heavy and bulky items, while rear seats fold completely for a flat load deck – as they should on a decent estate.

There is an underfloor storage compartment too and side load areas, retractable luggage cover, load-securing net hooks, and 12-volt boot-mounted power socket. Roof rails are standard.

So, while it has all of the mainstay hatchback's sportiness, style and technology, the Sportswagon offers more of the practicality and value that made its predecessor a hit for Kia in the UK fleet and business market.

Like the SW, it was designed and engineered in Europe exclusively for Europe and is built at the brand's start-of-the-art Žilina plant in Slovakia.

And there's an air of quality and driving pleasure about the new Ceed range generally, which makes it no surprise to learn that its development was benchmarked in particular against the VW Golf.

Priced from £16,895, rising to £24,795, and also including Kia's unique seven-year/100,000-mile warranty, the Sportswagon is offered with two diesel engines: an 89bhp 1.4-litre CRDi, and a 126bhp 1.6 CRDi with six-speed manual gearboxes.

A six-speed auto is also available on the 1.6, but this does not feature Kia's Intelligent Stop & Go (ISG) fuel-saving, emissions-reducing engine stop/start technology – standard on the manual versions. Stop & Go allows the 1.4-litre model to offer 67.3mpg on the combined cycle and low CO2 emissions of just 109g/km, reducing Benefit-in-Kind taxation to just 15 per cent.

Kia is keen to stress the attention to detail on the car, even down to the way the fuel-filler flap is released: in the Far East and North America, buyers like a separate release lever inside the car, but the new Ceed has the flap linked to the central locking system so that it can be opened with just a push – the way European customers like it.

Generous standard kit includes tilt and telescopic steering wheel adjustment, height-adjustable driver's seat, air con, steering wheel-mounted controls, electric front windows, iPod-compatible sound system and Bluetooth connectivity, plus alloys on all 1.6-litre versions.

WAGONS ROLL: Kia's all-new Ceed Sportswagon replaces the previously uninspiring SW – and is yet another impressive model to the Korean's growing list of quality cars

DON'T LIKE

...some penny-pinching on the Ceed 2 seats, but then this version does come with a cracking spec including alloys, cruise control and so on.

NOT SURE

...the Kia badge can yet threaten VW, but the Koreans must be worrying Ford and Vauxhall, and really scaring the French and Japanese.

REALLY LIKE

...how Kia always looks to improve. Criticisms of the previous Ceed were promptly addressed and the new car is a huge step forward from there.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excluding Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 80.7 (3.5). CO_2 emissions: 324 - 94g/km. Vauxhall Ampera: Combined/weighted: 235.4mpg (1.2). CO_2 emissions: 27g/km.

Model shown is Corsa Limited Edition 1.2i 16v VVT 3dr. Offer available to individuals for orders received between 03.07.12 and 01.10.12. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package over 36 months and 6,000 miles per year (max). An advance rental of £1,170 is payable, then 35 monthly rentals of £195. Rentals and excess charges are based on the current VAT rate. An excess charge of up to 4.58ppm will be applied for mileage in excess of 6,000 miles p.a. Excess charges also apply if the car is not serviced and maintained in accordance with manufacturer guidelines and returned to Vauxhall Leasing in a condition commensurate with the BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age and mileage. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Offer subject to availability and status. UK supplied vehicles only. For full specification, details, terms and conditions contact your local Retailer. Guarantee and/or indemnity may be required. Applicants must be 18 or over. Details correct at time of publication and may vary, e.g. if list price changes. Personal contract hire by ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, Oakwood Park, Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3JA. Model shown includes optional alloys and front fog lights at an extra cost.

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Peugeot 208 – 205's second coming?

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SINCE it launched the 205 supermini in 1983, Peugeot has sought to recreate its allure.

Not just in sales, because its staggering 5.3 million tally was actually topped by its 206 successor's 6.8 million, but also for the halo effect on the French marque itself.

At a stroke, the 205 made the hitherto staid Peugeot seem as chic and progressive as Gallic sister brands Citroën and Renault.

The most recent attempt to recreate this hero was the 207, which sold modestly and brought little lustre to the brand's famous lion emblem.

But its 208 replacement in June could be the second coming that Peugeot and its followers have longed for, delivering both volume and an uplift to the brand's image.

For a start, it's arguably the best looking car in the supermini segment, but this is underpinned by great practicalities: a big cabin for its size; another of those latterday Peugeot quality interiors; and clever powertrains, with the economic/eco-friendly credentials now demanded by buyers.

A lightweight 1.0-litre three-cylinder petrol engine is the potential star here, offering a road tax exempt 99g/km of CO2 that challenges dearer diesel options with similar tax status.

The 208 also rides well and feels nimble; Peugeot has taken a lot of weight out of the car versus the 207 and all versions I've driven feel grippy and responsive, with the lighter petrol versions best and taking the greater share of sales.

The new car comes in three and five-door configurations, starting at £9,995 for the three-door VTi 68bhp Access model.

With a design that draws younger drivers – consumers who loved the 205 so much – the 208's attractions are enhanced by the brand's innovative 'Just Add Fuel' (208 from £189/month) fixed monthly price lease including insurance. The only extras are fuel costs.

Despite a sub-10 grand entry price, entry trim level includes electric front windows and, surprisingly, cruise control, but you need to find £850 to trade up to Access + and get air con.

At the other extreme, you get much more, as our £17,845 flagship Feline test car showed, though I question whether "Yeah, I bought a 208 in Feline trim" is something that blokes will shout about when swapping car stories down the pub. So, this trim level may get renamed soon.

I also doubt whether there is yet much call for highly-specc'd superminis, though we are constantly told how people want to to downsize from bigger cars – but keep their toys.

One Feline luxury I really like though is the standard fit Cielo full-length glass roof; this one has little neon lights that come on around the edge at night time – very upmarket, too.

The 208's long wheelbase offers great comfort in the back and the Feline's part leather seats are good, although the armrest interferes too much with handbrake operation – I folded it up most of the time.

The dashboard design is also a mixed bag. While it is good quality and features an excellent central display, it is the fashion now to wrap the facia design around into the door trim – neater and making the dash seem further away, thereby suggesting greater roominess.

The 208's dash butts up instead against nasty panels that fit over where the door mirrors are attached.

All models also get steering wheel controls for the sound system, but that means we've lost the 'big pod' steering column arrangement that I thought worked well; shades of VHS v Betamax and a surprising climb down really when the French fought so long against giving up yellow headlamp lenses – remember those?

SMALL BUT PERFECTLY FORMED: Peugeot's new 208 is arguably the best looking car in the supermini sector, priced at under £10,000 for the entry level models and is available with either three or five doors

PEUEGOT 208 5-DR FELINE 1.6E-HDI 115 : PRICE £17,845

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

An injection of pace hits Mini

BMW has unveiled yet another Mini permutation – its seventh.

This time it's an eye-catching chunky coupé version of the marque's biggest model, the five-door Countryman crossover/SUV. Known as the Paceman, this is a three-door spin-off with a lowered suspension designed to deliver a more dynamic ride and drive.

It goes on sale on March 16, 2013, priced from £18,970.

Proceed will make it three

KIA unveils the third instalment of its second-generation Ceed family next weekend at the Paris Motor Show – it's the sporty all-new Proceed three-door hatch/coupé.

Peter Schreyer – former Audi designer and now Kia's design chief – said: "You know from a glance this is a car you want to drive, not just own."

The newcomer goes on sale next spring.

Cheaper price for the Beetle

VW has just made the stylish new generation Beetle £1,400 more affordable by opening order books on two new entry model engines from £15,195.

These are a turbocharged 105PS 1.2-litre petrol unit with six-speed manual gearbox (joining the DSG auto version) and 105PS 1.6-litre diesel with eco-friendly BlueMotion Technology with five-speed manual or DSG transmission.

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- 10 60 **INSIGNIA SRi CDTi 2.0 5dr,** Black Sapphire £11,995
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- 12 12 **ZAFIRA EXCITE 1.8 5dr,** Star Silver £15,995
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- 09 09 **PEUGEOT 207 GT HDi 1.6 5dr,** Re £7,995
- 05 05 **RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION 1.6 5dr,** Silver £3,350
- 04 54 **SKODA FABIA 1.2 5dr,** Blue £2,995
- 04 04 **CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3dr,** Star Silver £3,195
- 04 04 **ASTRA ELEGANCE AUTO 1.6 5dr,** Silver £2,675
- 07 07 **ASTRA SPORT TWINTOP 1.8 2dr,** Panacotta £5,995
- 04 54 **VECTRA CLUB CDTi ESTATE 2.0 5dr,** Silver £3,295
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MOTORING

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Attraction of traction with less subtraction

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PORSCHE'S unveiling of its all-wheel drive 911 Carrera 4 and 4S models coincides with confirmation the German sporting marque's cars are the UK's slowest depreciators.

A report by Auto Express magazine and trade valuation experts at CAP, shows the 911 Carrera Cabriolet and smaller Boxster roadster will lose less than half their value after three years/30,000 miles – topping analysis of some 40,000 other car models on the UK market.

Not surprisingly, Porsche cites high demand for pre-owned models and their sustainability – around two-thirds of all Porsches ever built are still on the road today.

It's already been quite a year for the marque with the new 911 arriving in late 2011 and the new Boxster in May.

Now there's a new chapter for the latest 911, with the Carrera 4 mini range making its public debut at the Paris Motor Show next weekend in both Coupé and Cabriolet formats.

Priced from £77,924 (Cabriolet from £86,583) they go on sale in the UK in December – 'standard' Porsche 911s start at £71,449.

The newcomers build on the traditional 911 layout of rear engine/rear-wheel drive by gaining an all-wheel drive Porsche Traction Management (PTM) system, for increased grip and power application, road-holding, and performance in all weather conditions.

A new dashboard indicator shows how engine torque or driving power is being shared between the front and rear axles at any moment.

KEEPING THE FAITH: Porsche opens a new chapter for its ever-popular 911 with the Carrera 4 mini range which comes in both Coupé and Cabriolet formats

Wider rear wheel arches have been an identifying feature of these all-wheel drive models in previous 911 line-ups, and this is carried over by a 22mm arch extension to accommodate rear tyres that are 10mm wider.

Apart from this and the 4x4 layout, the new Carreras are identical to their rear-driven sisters, sharing the same lightweight aluminium and steel composite body, suspension, engine choices and gearbox options.

The bodywork is up to 65 kilos lighter than the previous car, allowing up to 16 per cent better fuel economy despite a hike in performance.

All versions have a seven-speed manual gearbox as standard, but the company's seven-speed Porsche Doppelkupplung (PDK) twin-clutch automatic transmission is available as an option.

The 911 Carrera 4 entry version's 350bhp 3.4-litre flat-six engine offers 0-62mph in just 4.5 seconds (the Cabriolet needs 4.7) with a top speed of up to 177mph (Cabriolet 175mph).

The 911 Carrera 4 S has a 400bhp 3.8-litre unit allowing 0-62mph in 4.1 seconds (Cabriolet 4.3 seconds) and a top speed of 186mph (Cabriolet 184mph). A new option on the 911 range is Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC), which controls distance to traffic ahead and vehicle speed and, when ordered with the PDK auto 'box, partners with on-board technology that can help prevent front-end collisions.

NEW PEUGEOT *208* ACTIVE

Peugeot's iconic '20' series has been regenerated with the hotly anticipated Peugeot 208. With features like a **multi-function touchscreen, air-conditioning, cruise control, Bluetooth with USB connectivity and a EURO NCAP 5* safety rating** you'll see why it's a car that lets your body drive. So call today, book a test drive and experience the award winning Peugeot 208 for yourself.

MOTION & EMOTION

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The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) for the 208 range are: Urban 34.9 – 78.4 (8.1 – 3.6), Extra Urban 62.8 – 88.2 (4.5 – 3.2), Combined 48.7 – 83.0 (5.8 – 3.4) and CO_2 135-87

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MOTABILITY

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New lease of life for Motability in 2012

UNTIL the 1970s, only disabled people who could drive themselves received any Government help with transport.

And this was usually a notoriously-unstable blue three-wheeler with room for the driver only – not much use for families.

It all changed in 1978, with the launch of the Government-backed Motability charity, which calculated an allowance that disabled people could use towards a vehicle of their choice, removing the stigma of the blue 'invacar' and also opening up transport to people who relied on others to drive them.

Since then, more than three million cars, scooters and powered wheelchairs have been sourced through Motability, allowing disabled people to go shopping, do voluntary work, visit friends, go to the doctor, do sport, give a family member a lift or go on holiday – all things the motoring majority takes for granted.

Some users have even been able to take up further education or pursue better jobs and careers, having been liberated hugely by their new-found mobility.

The scheme was modified earlier this year, though, to both streamline the procedures and prevent some misuse creeping into the system.

OUT AND ABOUT: Counter clockwise from top left... all types of vehicle are available to Motability, from more practical family hatchbacks like the Hyundai i30 to funky crossovers such as Kia's Sportage and even coupés like the Veloster – another offering from the Hyundai stable

The key points were:

- The list of cars available has been streamlined.
- Nominated drivers must live at or within five miles of the applicant's address, though special circumstances will still be taken into consideration.
- Drivers under 25 are restricted to cars with an insurance group of 16 or lower and with a power output of 115bhp or less.
- Drivers under 21 are only permitted to drive Motability vehicles when they live with the disabled customer.

MOTABILITY

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Facts behind Motability

UP TO two nominated drivers can drive a Motability vehicle, but the disabled person qualifying for the scheme does not have to be one of them.

The drivers may be friends or relatives, while parents or carers can apply on behalf of a child aged three years or older.

The car only has to be used for the benefit of the disabled person, such as a shopping trip or collecting a prescription – they don't even have to be in the car. A third insured driver can be added for a small payment.

If you receive the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, you can apply for a Motability lease by exchanging part or all of that allowance.

Motability is a worry-free package that includes:

- A choice of some 2,000 car models
- Insurance, servicing and maintenance
- RAC breakdown assistance
- Road tax
- Tyre and windscreen replacement
- 60,000-mileage allowance over three years.

Car dimensions vary: seat height, door-opening angle and storage space for wheelchairs and equipment can all affect whether the car works for you and your particular disability or not, but your local dealer can take you through a questionnaire designed to ensure the car and Motability is right for you.

Many special adaptations are available free to help with the following: speed and steering, signalling and safety, stowage and seating and access.

The Motability package continues to the end of your three-year lease, with a seamless transfer to your new car. Some 600,000 customers currently choose Motability and 97 per cent say they would recommend the scheme to their friends.

YOU CHOOSE: You can have practicality and style with these two estate cars – the Hyundai i40 Tourer and Kia Ceed Sportswagon (left) or the Kia Picanto city car

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Models shown: ix20 Active 1.6 auto in Ice Blue metallic paint with nil advance payment. ix35 Style 1.6 GDi in Sleek Silver metallic paint with £299 advance payment. To qualify for the Motability offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement. Offers are subject to acceptance of Motability application. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Full written details, including terms and conditions, of the Motability Scheme are available on request from Motability. Please note 60,000 miles over 3 years are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai ix20 Active 1.6 Auto: Urban 34.0 (8.3), Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5), Combined 43.6 (6.5), CO_2 Emissions 154 g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai ix35 Style 1.6 GDi: Urban 34.4 (8.2), Extra Urban 47.1 (6.0), Combined 41.5 (6.8), CO_2 Emissions 158 g/km.

MOTORSPORT

Hill revs up defence of his title by getting on the right track in the gym

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

Pictures: ADY KERRY

FOCUSED: Tommy Hill isn't feeling any pressure to retain his Superbike title

HOW exactly do you train to become a British Superbike champion?

Tommy Hill, who is hoping to defend that title in the next month, knows the answer and it involves hours, upon hours, of solid work.

Hill, who has led the standings for most of the season, starts that title defence at Assen this weekend in the first of the three Showdown rides, at the end of which the BSB champion will be crowned.

But his work on the bike will only have been made possible by a gruelling weekly schedule of weights and cardiovascular training in the gym.

While others may struggle to stick to such a demanding regime, the racer has the classic traits of a sportsman at the peak of their powers.

Extremely competitive, and fully focused on delivering success on the track, the 25-year-old admits he feels guilty for having a day away from training, and laughs at the idea that riders turn up and let the machines do all the work. Even if his Yamaha is capable of hitting speeds of up to 200mph.

"I guess it's understandable that people think we just let the bike do all the work," he explains.

" I could do that, but this is my career. It's a full time job, whether it's travelling up and down the country, doing PR and media or training from Monday to Saturday.

"I never relax. If I'm in the gym and see someone standing on their head on one of the balls I want to do it one-handed.

"I have chilled out a bit but my whole life is a competition."

His routine has changed down the years, and has needed to after injuries have restricted how much he can run without feeling uncomfortable.

Gone are the days when he'll trudge away on a treadmill. Instead he makes the most of mixing and matching gym equipment to reflect the forces he deals with when riding his bike.

"We tried to work out how we could mimic what I need to do on a race bike, so we got the gym balls out and fell over a few times. But they work and they give me a full body work out," he said.

"If you want to train for football you can buy a pair of boots and a ball, but it's harder to go testing on race bikes. Last year we didn't test at all. "

It's an obsession that doesn't stop even when he's off duty. "If I go on holiday I will be saying to myself, 'are the other riders training? Will they be fitter than me?'

"If I have two days off I feel guilty which isn't good."

Hill, from Beckenham insists that he is happy with himself if he knows he has done all he can in the gym and doesn't worry about the pressure which is most definitely on now the Showdown series has arrived

"If I'm winning races, second is no good," he said. "This is what I do and I rely on myself and my team to keep calm. If I know I've done all I can with regards to training and being mentally prepared I'm happy, I don't want to make the mistake of thinking I could have done more.

"It's a matter of taking it race by race and not planning or being too strategic about it all. We know we can win races. I'm just going to try and treat it like I did last year, I didn't win a race (in the Showdown), but I raced to the rules."

REPORTER PUTS FITNESS TO THE TEST

BY his own admission Tommy Hill's life is a competition, so there was no way I was ever going to bother challenging him.

By nature I'm a competitive person, a casual runner, a bit of five-a-side football here and there, but the scale of the Tommy's weekly training regime makes me shudder.

But I thought I'd give some of his exercises a go, even if only using a fraction of the effort he does.

I was cautiously optimistic I'd be able to keep pace as we started the eight mile cycle to the gym, but I was soon left for dead as Tommy set off at his full pace for a mile. I was supposed to keep up, but a lay-by came to my rescue in the first of a few breathers I took - we got there eventually.

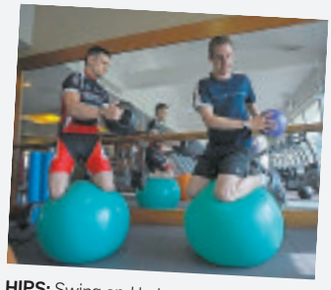
While Tommy's cardiovascular fitness is good to say the least, he obviously needs to be able to hold on to his bike while experiencing some serious G-force.

That's where the core strength exercises come into play. He doesn't spend hours pumping iron, but doing exercises that mimic the forces he'll be put under on a bike.

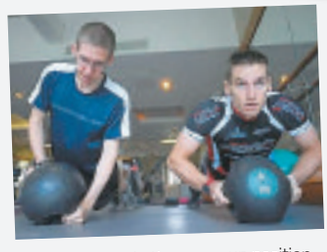
Most involve shifting weights while balancing on the big gym balls, a method that tests his balance at the same time as testing multiple muscles to the max.

Of course when it came to my turn, Tommy took great delight in watching me roll about on the ball for a matter of seconds while trying to hold weights that sent me crashing to the floor - laughing became a theme throughout.

After a breather it was time to head back, by a slightly shorter route, but not short enough.

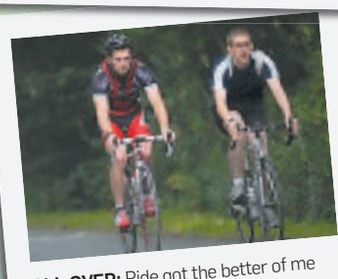


HIPS: Swing and balance on the balls



ARMS: Rolling in the press-up position

CORE: Workout mimics being on bike



ALL OVER: Ride got the better of me

CRICKET

Billings sees future at Kent as stars commit to the club

Picture: ADY KERRY

FUTURE: Billings set to stay for another season

KENT youngster Sam Billings said there was never any doubt he would sign a new contract at the club as he sets his sights on taking over the gloves from Geraint Jones.

The 21-year-old enjoyed a breakthrough season in Kent's one-day sides, hitting 143 in the CB40 against Derbyshire, while also being a key part of the second XI's championship winning team.

And after penning a new one-year deal at the St Lawrence Ground he said he is hoping to step into the big shoes of Kent stalwart Jones in his preferred position as wicketkeeper.

"I want to play for Kent," he said. "Jonesy had a brilliant year this year, but he's coming to the end of his career and I'm hoping I can put pressure on him next year to get the gloves.

"The main factors for signing are that at the moment I want to play cricket for Kent. That's all I want to do to be honest, and the club is definitely going in the right direction.

"We are competing in all forms of the game.

"It's a strong environment and one I want to be a part of, which has been reinforced by the senior guys that have signed.

"Next year will take care of itself as long as I keep improving. I will start in the second team with the longer form of the game and hope I can score more runs.

"This season has been a stepping stone. I know I have got plenty more to offer.

"The experience this year has really helped me, and I'm hoping I can take it into next season."

The other players to sign new deals at the club are Jones, James Tredwell, Darren Stevens, Mark Davies, Ben Harmison, Brendan Nash, Sam Northeast, Fabian Cowdrey, Ben Kemp, Ivan Thomas, and Ashley Shaw.

Other first teamers Adam Ball, Daniel Bell-Drummond, Alex Blake, Matt Coles, Rob Key, Mike Powell, Adam Riley, and Charlie Shreck are already under contract for next season.

Kent also have the option to re-sign Azhar Mahmood next season, but only for the T20 campaign. Simon Cook has left to start a career in coaching, while Chris Piesley was not offered a new deal.

FOOTBALL

'Forget Arsenal on TV, get along to back the Brickies'

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

BRICKIES chairman Andy Spice has called on Sittingbourne's football fans to get behind the team as the club looks to bridge the financial gap left after their ground-share with Maidstone United ended in the summer.

The Stones ended their stay at Bourne Park last season as they moved into their new £2.6m Gallagher Stadium in July meaning Sittingbourne now miss out on rent, and matchday income from their Ryman One South rivals.

While the Brickies would play away Maidstone United's fans would bring in revenue at the bar, while the club would also pay rent to Sittingbourne. But with that now gone and the economy still suffering, the club is struggling like many others at their level.

"Finding sponsors is a nightmare," said Spice. "We are down on our sponsorship by 80 per cent on what we have got the previous two years.

"That has left us with a great big hole. We expected to go into this season with money in the bank to go forward, but this year it has been awful. It hasn't done us any good at all, it's made us struggle.

"Maidstone leaving us made a difference. Without them we have lost a good income, a good revenue stream, so that hasn't helped. We have got to find something to fill that gap.

"Every season there is a small amount of debt, when we first took over it was horrendous around 10 years ago. We talking hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Picture: KEN MEDWYN

SUPPORT: Chairman Andy Spice looks to fans

"It was a terrible state, to unravel it took a long time."

Lowly attendances have also caused concern for Spice who concedes the club could still be suffering from the fallout of financial ruin a decade ago when local businesses were on the wrong end of the club's bankruptcy.

"The profile of the club needs lifting. It had a bad reputation a few years ago when it went bust. It left a bad taste, you end of with people not really wanting to help.

"We have got some great support, but you could do with that times 100. I took a walk up and down the street handing out leaflets about the game – some people looked at me like I was an alien, other people took them.

"There is a lot of housing around here, you think you'd get a few more people involved. There is so much sport on television now you can sit and have a beer and watch Chelsea or Arsenal on telly.

"I think every non-league club is going to struggle with finances because you don't get enough people at the club."

He said altering the ticket prices wasn't an option: "A concession is £4 and it's £8 for an adult, the league stipulate it has to be a certain amount of money."

He said he hoped the new enthusiasm shown by joint-managers, brothers Jim and Danny Ward, will encourage stay-away supporters to pack Bourne Park once again.

"I hope that will make a difference having Danny and Jim getting people involved," he said. "They are a great couple of lads. They are really keen and enthusiastic, you'd think they had only just started, but they've been in the game for years.

"It's a breath of fresh air to be honest. They are first class, I've been really impressed with them. They are always busy trying to improve and do things."

ICE HOCKEY

Picture: DAVE TREVALLION

CHANGE: Smith glad the new season has begun

Captain Smith hopes a settled squad can get Dynamos back to top

INVICTA Dynamos captain Andy Smith is hoping the club can push on to greater heights from their fourth place finish last season.

The Dynamos struggled for form in the league as well-documented off-ice problems disrupted the squad.

But now the new season has started, Smith is determined to move on and get the club back where it belongs.

"A little bit of change is what is needed after finishing fourth last year, I'm sure we will be right up there," said Smith.

"The league is getting tougher now and Kev (manager Kevin Parrish) has put a good bunch of lads together."

Now that there is a settled squad, with no less than seven arrivals Smith feels they get back on track.

"It was a bit of a rollercoaster last year, a lot of off-the-ice stuff affected us at the start, we can put our concentration into the game this year," he said.

"It's hard when you have got a lot of guys coming in and then going, but now we have got boys in it's going to be a team right the way through the year.

"I'm really impressed with all the boys that have come in, Andy Strawson has come in and really impressed me, and young Joe Bliss has hit the ground running, he's got great potential."

He admitted while it was a difficult decision to come back, his return was always on the cards.

"Obviously I've got my family at home and my family business, but I love hockey so there was only ever going to be one outcome.

"I work six days a week from 7am until 6pm, it's quite a long week when you've got hockey at the weekends and training Tuesday and Thursday. It's hard in the summer when you spend all the time with the family, but when the season starts you need to be focused to be prepared for the game.

"Especially now my little girl is two-years-old, she's getting more aware of things going on.

"It was a tougher decision now than any other year, I'm 27 now and you've got to look to the future and build a foundation for you're family, but I'm pleased I'm back."

They have started well in the league winning both of their opening games against Milton Keynes Thunder, and Bracknell Hornets.

HOCKEY

Gore Court aim to avoid the drop as season set to start

STAYING in the league is a minimum aim for Gore Court's director of hockey Martin Lukehurst, a week ahead of the season.

The side, who play in the Southern Premier B league, start their campaign at home to Maidstone next weekend, and will be happy to avoid the drop says Lukehurst.

"We are hoping for a reasonable season," he said. "We have relatively the same squad that finished the season last year, and we even have a couple of boys back from university who will be about.

"Staying in the league would be a reasonable season. I cannot see us pushing for honours although we finished last year on a high, the last four or five matches were promotion winning form. The warm-up matches have been a bit sluggish, so it might take them a while to get going.

"We have got captain Aaron Glass who has been the leading goalscorer in the league for the last two or three seasons because of his expert penalty corners. But as much as we score them we have got to keep them out."

START: Ladies begin next weekend

One man who may be able to help in that quest is keeper Mark Garbutt who Lukehurst said made a difference to the side when he began playing halfway through last season.

"We have a goalkeeper who has come up through the ranks, he (Mark Garbutt) was playing in the fourth and fifth teams," he said. "I don't think we lost a game when he came into the side."

The ladies' first team also start their campaign next weekend when they play away to Folkestone Optimists.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Dragons duo get England call for Aussie test match

TWO Medway Dragons players have proven that international ambition can be achieved no matter what your age.

Dragons Masters duo Graham McManus and Eddie Baldwin have been selected to represent England against Australia in the Masters Test Match in Leeds on October 14.

McManus and Baldwin are two players at the heart of the masters version of the game at the Dragons, who play at the Garrison Stadium in Gillingham.

It's the second time this year that the club has had a call from England, as Joe Coyd and Nick Brooks represented England's wheelchair rugby league side in a home nations tournament in Hull in July.

Dragons head coach Martin Coyd said: "We are absolutely delighted for Graham and Eddie, not only are they great players, they are fantastic people, too.

"They are at the heart of the club, epitomising the qualities needed to have fun, to play this great game, and make the sport happen. I know that they will have a ball and do us all proud.

MASTERS: McManus and Baldwin

"The selections are a further piece of recognition for Medway Dragons where it is possible to participate in rugby league at any age, disabled or not, male or female there is something for everyone, right up to pulling on the jersey of your country. To cap it all, they are playing the Aussies."

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